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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND 2015

Two more awards for the Cowbridge Physic garden
SEE PAGE 4

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Don't forget to turn your clocks back this Sunday!

Salute to Welsh rugby and football heroes
SEE PAGE 41 AND BACK PAGE

New planning regime for rural Vale hinted at by Conservatives

THE Conservatives are planning to offer rural communities a May election sweetener by giving small councils a say in planning local housing needs.

Lack of housing within rural communities has been a major issue in recent years, but at the same time, large housing developments have been vehemently opposed by local groups.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

How it would work in practice is unclear at the moment, but a spokesman for the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, told The GEM that the policy would be available in more detail when the party's manifesto was launched in time for next May's election.

Under the proposals, local councils would be allowed to allocate sites specifically for people who already have a connection to the area, "ensuring power is in the hands of local, rural councils".

Mr Davies said: "We want to ensure any village has the ability to expand in an incremental way, subject to local agreement."

The principle that housing should be for people who already have a connection to the area is the current criterion for affordable housing developments.

However, in large developments that are currently in the pipeline, the percentage of affordable housing varies between 30 per cent and 40 per cent.

Presumably, a community council which put its support behind a small development could insist that all the dwellings fell into the 'affordable' category.

The GEM asked the Conservatives what would happen to the much larger developments that would be outside the town council's remit.

The spokesman said: "We want to move away from housing numbers being dictated by the centre (Welsh Government) – this should be in the hands of the local authority.

"The dictating from the centre has caused many of the problems we have witnessed with housing developments in recent times across the Vale.

"We have opposed the large housing developments proposed for areas such as St Nicholas, Wick and Ystradowen.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Llancarfan School and St Cadoc's Church choir.

Church and school form a musical duet at Llancarfan!

"ST CADOC'S Church, Llancarfan, is well known for its medieval wall paintings – it now adds the voices of young people who, in learning to sing, help to sing God's praises," says Canon Derek Belcher.

He recently formed the St Cadoc and Llancarfan School choir, with the support of Mrs Sheelagh Lewis (accompanist) and Mr Colin Smith, headteacher.

He started the choir when he came to the parish at Easter and they are now part of the Sunday Family Worship at St Cadoc's church.

As well as supporting St Cadoc's monthly family service, the choir recently sang at the harvest festival thanksgiving service before an enthusiastic and supportive congregation.

They are now busy rehearsing for All Saints Festival on November 1 and the school and the Llancarfan village talent shows on December 18.

The proceeds of the talent shows will go to support the work of the Latch children's charity, and also towards school funds.

Colin Smith said: "The choir sang in St Cadoc's Church in June at the first Family Eucharist last July. It was a great success and the children really were a credit to the school. We look forward to them continuing to sing at the monthly family Sunday services, and to hearing them perform at forthcoming talent shows.

"We value the close links between the church and the school and thank Canon Belcher and Mrs Lewis for their continued hard work and support."

Canon Belcher added: "I am overwhelmed by the positive support given by the pupils and parents.

"The children are very enthusiastic and enjoy the weekly rehearsals.

"The forming of a choir gives the children a fabulous opportunity to enjoy singing together."

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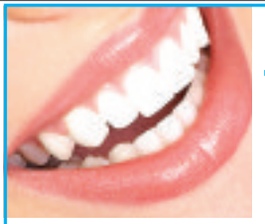

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IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Funds allocated by Plaid Cymru'

IN GEM letters (October 8) your correspondent, Jonathan Osborne asked how the Vale Council was able to afford Barry Island regeneration, despite cuts to its budget.

The answer is that the Plaid Cymru Deputy Minister for Regeneration, Jocelyn Davies, gave Barry regeneration areas status in 2010, with £10million allocated for investment in the town, to be spent over several years.

That funding was spent on improvements to Barry Island, the Pumphouse and parks and projects across the town.

Unfortunately, the current Labour Government stripped Barry of its regeneration area status in 2013 and rejected a proposal for a further £15m investment in the town.

In government, Plaid Cymru put both faith and money into Barry, where Labour continues to sell the town short – despite our local AM having been in the cabinet for 16 years.

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry
(Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales).

What happened to the minimum wage?

I AM currently looking for work in the Barry area, and have noticed that a number of vacancies are being advertised at £3.50 to £4 an hour by the local council and by local medical practices for apprentices – yet the job description and the skills required are those of a trained individual.

There does not appear to be any courses or training involved.

What has happened to the minimum wage?

Is this a way of bypassing the new laws and regulations?

David Robinson, Barry.

Training course for disabled swimmers

A TRAINING course for people helping disabled children and adults to participate in water activities, is being held in Barry next month.

The four-day Halliwick Foundation Course will start on Friday, November 13 at Barry Leisure Centre and the Contact 1 Vale office.

It is being organised by Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club and will be run by an instructor from the Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy.

This course is suitable for anyone accompanying or teaching swimming to people with disabilities.

For further details, visit our website: http://barrybeaversdsc.wix.com/barry-beavers#!training/c1pif or email Kayewatts@btinternet.com for an application form.

Sarah Davies,
Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club.

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COUNCIL RESPONSE 'BEGGARS BELIEF!'

THE Leader of the Vale Council's response to my letter (headed 'Value for money' (The GEM, October 8), regarding the council's approach in managing its money, beggars belief.

My letter expressed concern with regard to cuts being made in community services and Coun Moore makes no attempt to address the majority of those concerns.

He says I have "a poor grasp of how local authorities are actually funded"; and that I am "clearly unaware" that council tax is "less than a third of the council's budget".

I am ***not*** unaware. I wonder why he should think that, when I never even suggested any such thing.

My letter clearly referred to "our money and assets" and identified how much the Vale Council tax had risen over the last three years.

The vast majority of the council budget is funded by we tax payers and is distributed by Government.

It is not the Government's money, it is our money and the sooner our elected representatives, and some council officials, come to realise that, the better.

Coun Moore further misrepresents me when I stated "£500,000 has been paid out in DISCRETIONARY payments over the last five years". Excuse my emphasis, but there is clearly a need to point out that this figure did not refer to 'redundancy payments', as stated by the council Leader.

Staff receiving redundancy payments should be paid what they are legally entitled to and I am well aware that over the last five years, that has amounted to £4,431,908.

The final point that I want to respond to is the disgraceful statement that I chose to "either wilfully or ignorantly mislead the public" about local authorities.

My letter only referred to "our council" and as readers will observe, I have not misled anyone.

Jonathan Osborne,
FocusBarry member.

'The taxpayers have a right to ask questions'

IN last week's GEM, the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, responded to a reader's letter when he voiced his views about whether the council represented value for money.

I guess many of us often wonder about the inner workings of the council, its make-up and decision-making processes, particularly when we find it difficult to comprehend how money is allocated to some of the recent eyebrow-raising initiatives.

Whilst we seem to be paying more for less and are constantly being reminded of the need for belt tightening as a result of governmental financial cutbacks, it does seem incomprehensible that money is found to support some schemes which would generally not get the backing of Vale residents.

In terms of how one may gauge value for money, there doesn't appear to be any in-built mechanism which readily gives us ordinary folk a snapshot of how councillors' performance measures up and whether there is a clear strategic criteria as to how money is spent. Refurbishing chambers or redundancy payments do leave us all speculating about the wisdom of those controlling the coffers and how things are prioritised.

Coun Moore was clearly irritated, judging by the tone of his response and reminded us, once again, of the difficulties faced by the council making ends meet.

I think we are all well aware of the financial challenges facing the council ensuring that vital services continue and remain effective.

As leader of the council, Coun Moore should expect to be answerable for the council's actions. Whilst there is a 'we know best' attitude, which seems endemic within the Vale Council, I think we residents should continue to ask difficult questions if we feel we are in danger of being steamrollered in matters having a direct impact on our lives or community.

Rob Taylor, Barry

Bridge too far?

COULD someone please tell me what is happening with the railway bridge at Ewenny?

It was supposed to be completed at the end of July (set in stone!) as reported.

Here we are in October, and there are still traffic lights, barriers and a path to nowhere is incomplete.

C Lawson, Llantwit Major.

Why pay rises?

WHY is it okay for our Government to give themselves unneeded pay rises, which take money away from families who want to feed and clothe their children?

David Cameron gets luxury items while children go without heating, food, and clothes!

Shani Coates, Barry.

Why is Sully not included?

I READ with amazement your report last week headed 'Vale Council's anger at 'soft touch' claim over travellers' and wonder why it did not include the unauthorised occupation of the old rubbish tip in Sully, which is part of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Travellers have illegally occupied the old rubbish tip at Sully for four years. The Vale Council has not undertaken the "the swiftest possible action to end this unauthorised occupation" in Sully, but they have done so in Barry. I wonder why?

Sully is part of the Vale and, like Barry residents, we pay our rates to that local authority.

Mrs K M Beach, Sully.

STREET LIGHTS: *'savings overlooked'*

I WRITE in response to Coun Gwyn John's letter published in The GEM on October 8, in which he says that I am challenging the council's decision to implement part-street lighting in the Vale.

I can assure readers I am not challenging the decision, but merely criticising the way in which some obvious savings have been overlooked and it is that which I, and other residents, believe to be farcical.

For example, as previously stated in my GEM letter of September 24, the main car park at Harbour Road has at least 20 floodlights burning between 8pm and 6am every night.

The street lighting along the footpath to the breakwater is also ablaze with lighting during the same hours, as is the length of Barry Island promenade.

The light on the Harbour Road causeway is turned off during the same hour. There is no feasible reason why the floodlights and such should not be turned off between 7pm and 6am, as the areas concerned are not being used by residents or tourists during these hours.

I find Coun John's comments in his response to my letter quite distasteful, especially as at one time I held him in high regard.

Barrie V Evans,
Co-ordinator, Barry First Group, FocusBarry supporter.

Too many charity collection bags

I MOVED to Llantwit Major earlier in the year and quickly noticed the large number of charity collecting bags which came through our letter box.

There were so many of them, that after a while I decided to keep count.

I have received five bags since since August 24. Three were from the same charity.

Exactly how many old clothes do these people suppose we have? I have not had any clothes to get rid of in the two months since I started retaining these bags.

In any case, even if I had, Llantwit Major is already well served by charity shops.

I appreciate that charities need to make money somehow, but this quantity of collection bags landing on doormats is just adding plastic waste in the environment.

It's crazy, and extremely irritating.

Marcia Malia, Llantwit Major.

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HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL OCTOBER 29)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	01.19	7.9	14.04	8.2
23 Fri	02.48	8.1	15.26	8.5
24 Sat	04.04	8.5	16.33	9.1
25 Sun	04.03	9.3	16.27	9.8
26 Mon	04.57	9.9	17.19	10.3
27 Tues	05.47	10.4	18.08	10.7
28 Wed	06.29	10.7	18.54	10.9
29 Thur	07.14	10.8	19.38	10.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Llanfair's donation for Vale needy

Llanfair pupils recently handed over a generous donation to the Vale Foodbank.

LLANFAIR Primary children and staff celebrated their harvest festival recently with new headteacher Mr Guy, who reminded everyone of how thankful we should be for the things we have. Each class performed wonderfully and parents and staff gave generous donations for the Vale Foodbank, a spokeswoman said.

MAJOR BOOST FOR VALE AEROSPACE SECTOR – AS DREAMLINER 787 FLIES IN

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE aerospace industry in the Vale received a major boost this week when British Airways pledged to give maintenance work for the new generation of Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft to its facility at Cardiff Airport.

THE British Airways Maintenance Centre (BAMC) currently employs more than 700 people, and the good news was announced by British Airways' executive chairman, Keith Williams.

He was in south Wales to open a new £3.3 million extension of the aerospace centre at the University of South Wales at Treforest.

The news was widely welcomed by politicians in the area. Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I am delighted to see the commitment from British Airways to undertake maintenance for the next generation of aircraft at Cardiff Airport.

"The skilled jobs and apprenticeships are just what we need in the area, and I am pleased that the opportunities I have discussed over some time with BAMC will now come to fruition."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "This is great news for the Vale of Glamorgan.

"Wales has an excellent reputation for aviation maintenance and the decision by BA to base their Dreamliner fleet maintenance here in the Vale supports this."

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, said: "This news is a huge boost for the Vale and delivers a massive vote of confidence for the employees at the British Airways site.

"Aerospace is a big driver for the local economy and this will provide excellent opportunities in the field of apprenticeships.

"It's fantastic to see Wales playing a leading role in the development and maintenance of the Dreamliner.

"BA's decision to locate its maintenance arm in the Vale is a tribute to the skill and experience of the local workforce, and in an era of tough competition this is tremendous news."

POOR SUPPORT FOR LOCAL QUIZ

I WOULD like to thank the Friends of Cowbridge Library for organising an excellent quiz night recently, and a convivial evening was enjoyed by all.

It was helped by the quiz masters, who pitched the questions at a level that was not disheartening to those of lesser cerebral capacity (me), but which was not too facile for the intellectual giants present (everyone else).

The only disappointment was the poor support the event received from the residents of Cowbridge.

Steve Monaghan, Creigiau.

Change to planning regime is mooted

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The spokesman continued: "We believe in creating more sustainable and suitable housing schemes for the Vale – on a far smaller scale than the larger ones which have recently been proposed and that importantly do not significantly alter the character of the local community.

"Ultimately, we want to deliver a system which is more akin to the one currently seen in England."

An example that could be relevant is at Colwinston, where the community council opposed a housing development in one area of the village, saying that another area was preferable and more practical.

As and when the Conservatives flesh out this proposal, community councils and local campaigners are likely to be watching with interest.

Mental health group

LOCAL non-profit organisation, Assure Support & Wellbeing Service CIC is launching two new groups at Pontyclun next month to help people wanting to improve their mental health.

WRAP, which stands for 'Wellness Recovery Action Planning', is a 10-week programme which will run on Wednesdays between 6pm and 8pm, from November 11 in Cafe 50, Pontyclun Community Centre.

'Using Creativity To Explore Emotion', a 10-week structured counselling group will run on Sundays (11am – 1pm) starting November 15 in Cafe 50.

Both groups are free to attend. Contact Chris or Julia at enquiries@assurewellbeing.co.uk or on 07528 621061 for full details.

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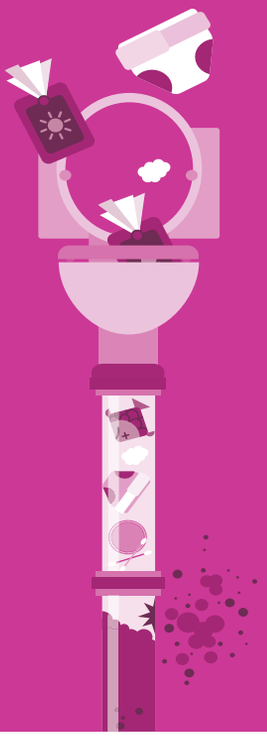

Physic Garden wins two blooming great awards!

THE Cowbridge Physic Garden has achieved great success in the Wales in Bloom awards, organised by the Royal Horticultural Society in Wales.

During a ceremony held in Wolfscastle, Pembrokeshire, the garden was presented with an award for the RHS 'National Level of Distinction' and a special ceramic plaque for achieving an 'outstanding' level of achievement in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme.

This particular award is especially gratifying, as it recognises the sterling work undertaken by all the volunteers who put so much effort and horticultural skill into making the Physic Garden such a special place.

Receiving the awards from Jenna Pickvance of the RHS, on behalf of all the volunteers in the garden who have contributed to the success, were Eifiona Jones and Jill Roberts.

Well done, all round!

MH

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Llangan Primary

THE governing body of Llangan school has appointed a new headteacher; Miss Susan Price will take up her new role in January 2016.

The present headteacher, Mr Steve Williams, will be taking up a new post in Cardiff.

Llangan School PTA has organised a Hallowe'en-themed cinema night (tonight, October 22). Be there by 6.30pm. You can wear spooky costumes! The cost of this fun evening is £2.50 and there will also be snacks available.

Village hall

PUT on your fancy dress and go along to the hall on Friday, October 30 between 5.30pm – 7.30pm and join in the fun. All this for £1.50 adults (children admitted free).

Reminder

ST Mary Hill/Llangan Community Hall's Hallowe'en party is on Saturday, October 31; doors open at 6.30pm; scary games; terror trail; disco; refreshments. Entry free.

Missing Barny!

BARNY is a ginger cat at Llangan who hasn't been seen since October 9 and his family are extremely worried. If everyone living in Llangan could check their sheds, hay barns and stables, hopefully he will be found. Please contact 07543 576699, or 'Mandalay', Llangan.

AGENCY SWEEPS BOARD AT AWARDS

COWBRIDGE-based communication agency jamjar PR has won outstanding small consultancy of the year at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Cymru Wales PRide Awards – for the third year in a row.

Spearheaded by PR practitioner Lyndsey Jenkins who hails from Cowbridge, it swept the board in the annual awards ceremony at Cardiff's City Hall. The agency's work for contemporary visual arts exhibition Artes Mundi 6 won a gold and silver award in best use of social media and arts, sport and culture campaign respectively.

Its campaign for local tapas restaurant Bar 44 won a gold award in the Consumer Relations category and its work for SuperStars' entrepreneur James Taylor was also recognised with a silver award in the Business and Corporate Communications category.

LLANFAIR CP SCHOOL OFF THE WATCHDOG LIST

LLANFAIR C P School has made 'good progress' since its inspection in July 2014 – according to schools inspector, Estyn and will now be removed from the list of schools requiring monitoring by the education watchdog.

In its report following a visit to the school in September, Estyn concluded that 'the curriculum now provides a suitable range of opportunities to challenge more able pupils and that teachers' planning takes good account of the prior achievement of more able pupils and provides sufficient challenge to move pupils on to their next stage of learning.'

Improvements were also noted in the Foundation Phase with, 'many more able pupils reading fluently and discussing the content of their books effectively.'

Very good progress had also been made in addressing the Inspector's concerns over the provision for pupils' wellbeing with the school site now considered to be secure and safe.

The leadership and management of the school had also made very good progress, along with the fostering a closer working relationship with the school's governors.

Newly-appointed head, Jon-Paul Guy, said, "I am delighted that the report recognises the very strong progress made by the school. I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone involved who've worked exceptionally hard in the last year to achieve this outcome. I look forward to building on this success in the future".

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services and schools said: "The progress that the school has made since Estyn's inspection last year (July 2014) is to be commended. They have responded positively and decisively to the inspector's comments and have really turned things around."

He added: "What they have achieved in a very short time is quite remarkable and is testament to the hard work and determination of everyone involved in the school – the headteacher, staff, pupils, governors and parents."

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Pupils' bumper harvest festival

ABOVE:
Pupils with the impressive Harvest array, which is being donated to the Vale foodbank.

THE children of Llancarfan raised the roof last week while celebrating Harvest Festival, with an assembly of songs and poetry led by Canon Belcher.

Parents and children made generous donations of tins and packets of dried food to pile high in the school hall. All of the items donated have been given to the Vale Foodbank at Coastlands Church in Barry.

Ewa Thomas, from Vale Foodbank, said: "Every item of food so generously donated will help to fight hidden hunger in the Vale and restore hope to those in genuine need. Thank you!"

NatWest **six** days!

THE GEM recently reported that NatWest in Cowbridge was open three days a week; in fact, it is open from Monday to Saturday.

BRIDGE PLAYERS BOOST LIFEBOATS

From the right: Rita Williams, first prize; Dot Williams, Geoff Jones, second; and Hilary Bevington.

DOT WILLIAMS, the longest-serving member in the Llantwit Major RNLI Guild, presented the prizes at a successful Bridge afternoon, held last Friday in the Llantonian Hall.

Nine tables of avid bridge played enjoyed a light-hearted but competitive three hours of bridge, with the first prize of a bottle of whisky going to Rita Williams.

Geoff Jones took the second prize, a bottle of sparkling wine, with Hilary Bevington getting half a dozen eggs for the longest sitter.

A delicious tea was served to the players, who responded with their usual generosity, helping to make over £450 the Lifeboats charity.

The local health centre staff 'flu' around course!

STAFF from Cowbridge Health Centre 'flu' around the 5K course at the Cancer Research UK charity's fundraiser event, weing T-shirts promoting this year's flu vaccination programme.

"It is important that those eligible and in the at-risk groups should book in now for their vaccination, as it reduces the risk of catching flu and becoming ill and reduces the spread of flu to others," a spokeswoman said.

Probus learns about the history of Dyffryn

THE October meeting of the Llantwit Major Probus Club was held in Illtyd 216.

Vice president John Clarke welcomed members and, with the assistance of Roger Gullet, gave details and costings for the trip to Westonbirt Arboretum on Monday, October 26, and our annual dinner on November 6 in the golf club at St Athan.

The guest speaker will be Eluned Morgan, Baroness Morgan of Ely, a former student at Atlantic College and who served as an MEP in Brussels for 15 years.

Tony Meakins gave this month's talk on the history of Dyffryn House from the mid-1300s to 1938, the house originally thought to belong to the Bishop of Llandaff in 1332, before going on to be the family home for the Button, Price and then the Cory families.

Many rooms in the house have now been restored by the National Trust, but unfortunately all the original furniture had been sold. Most people go to visit the gardens, but obviously the house is well worth a visit also.

A vote of thanks on behalf of those present was given by Tony Tarlton, our speaker's final task being to draw the monthly raffle which was won by Mick Mason.

Next month's meeting is on Tuesday, November 10, when the speaker will be Christine Young.

MM

PORTHCAWL FARMERS' MARKET

THE monthly Porthcawl Farmers' Market will take place this Saturday, October 24 at Awel y Mor Community Hall in Porthcawl (behind the fire station); from 9.30am – 12.30pm; parking is available.

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A WARM WELCOME TO YSGOL LLANHARI!

IT was a pleasure to welcome so many year-6 pupils and parents to our Open Evening at Ysgol Llanhari on October 14.

It was an excellent opportunity to view the school, meet with the current pupils and staff and enjoy a variety of activities ranging from French conversational lessons to science experiments and an open rehearsal for our show *Back to the Eighties*.

We look forward to welcoming the pupils back before half term for their first transition day of the academic year.

Roedd yn gyfle ardderchog i ymgyfarwyddo â'r ysgol, cwrdd â staff a disgyblion a mwynhau ystod eang o weithgareddau yn amrywio o wersi Ffrangeg, i arbrofion Gwyddoniaeth a gwylio ymarfer ein sioe gerdd am eleni Nol i'r 80au.

Edrychwn ymlaen yn fawr at gyfarfod â disgyblion blwyddyn 6 eto cyn hanner tymor pan fyddan nhw yn ymweld â ni ar gyfer eu diwrnod trosglwyddo cyntaf.

Croeso cynnes i Ysgol Llanhari

PLESER fu croesawu cymaint o ddisgyblion blwyddyn 6 a'u rhieni i Noson Agored yr Ysgol ar y 14eg o Hydref.

You can follow The GEM on **Twitter** - keep up with your local news ***@gem_news***

Anguish for man unable to get vital medication

by GEM REPORTER

A Barry man has told of his despair after he was unable to get vital medication from his local surgery to control severe depression.

The man who is in his 30s said he had made an arrangement to pick up an 'urgent' prescription, only to be told he couldn't because of the 48-hour turnaround policy.

He said he wanted to highlight the problem he had faced so that other people didn't suffer in the same way.

The man said: "I suffer severe depression with suicidal tendencies and have made three attempts on my life to date, having suffered for 15 years.

"On Tuesday, October 6, I noticed I had run out of one particular medication and called my surgery, West Quay Medical Centre and explained the situation."

The staff there recommended that he put in a repeat prescription, which involved a 48-hour turnaround and advised him that he should get to the surgery before midday.

But the man needed the medication urgently, rather than having to wait the 48 hours, and explained that to staff.

He said: "I've only recently been able to return to work, so was unable to get there for midday. The receptionist appeared to understand and told me she would notify the other receptionists who were working that I would be in after work at around 4pm, at which time they could print off a script, but I would have to wait until a doctor signed it.

"That wasn't a problem. It was my fault, I ran out and I didn't mind a wait.

"I arrived at the surgery just after 4pm and queued patiently to speak to a receptionist, at which point it all went horribly wrong.

"All knowledge of any phone conversation was denied and they were back to sticking to their guns of a 48-hour turnaround policy.

"Once again, I explained the severity of the situation and the effects of not taking a drug your body has become accustomed to, but it fell on deaf, insensitive ears.

"I explained how I fear for my own safety and the receptionist told me not to use threatening behaviour.

"I continued to plead for medication, so the lady went to speak to the practice manager.

"He didn't see fit to come and speak to me directly and just sent back a message reaffirming the 48-hour policy. Unfortunately, my illness has no regard for policy.

"At this time, I had to leave as it was all getting too much for me. I called my wife and explained what had happened. I needed to hear her voice because I was so upset. My wife said she'd call the doctors and request to speak to the practice manager.

"No call was returned that day and a further attempt was made and once again the promised call back never materialised."

The man finally received his medication on Friday, October 9.

The man went on: "It was very distressing and also hard on my wife.

"In this day and age, the awareness of mental health is so prevalent that I am astounded at the uncaring nature shown to me by the people who are supposed to be there to help me."

Christopher Williams, the practice manager, said: "The practice widely publicises to all patients the need to ensure they request repeat medication in good time, to ensure they do not run short.

"For patients who have previously requested a prescription at short notice, we remind them of the need to allow 48 hours between request and the prescription becoming available.

"An emergency supply can be provided by a community pharmacy, if there is an immediate need for the prescription-only medication, and it is not practical for the patient to obtain a prescription.

"Where there is a clear clinical need to produce prescriptions urgently, the practice will do so. At no time will the health or well-being of any patient be jeopardised by the practice because the patient has forgotten to request a repeat prescription."

Up the Beacons – *and along the Taff Trail!*

ELEVEN Penarth and District ramblers, and leader Rachel, journeyed to the westernmost part of the Brecon Beacons National Park to visit the ruins of the mystical Carreg Cennen Castle.

After meeting a group of walkers from London, a wide path through ancient woodland led uphill.

A long climb from Pant-y-Clogau led to a road skirting the Clogau Bach quarries, where they scrambled over the moorland back to their start.

Biddy leads!

A heavy police presence for security reasons, because a legal service was taking place at Llandaff Cathedral later that morning, greeted leader Pam, her ten companions and pup Biddy as they went upstream past Llandaff weir towards Llandaff North road bridge, which led to the opposite bank of the river.

Joining the very busy Taff Trail with its variety of runners, cyclists and walkers, the path led on to Blackweir bridge reflected in the still water of the Taff.

Entering Bute Park and walking on to the Secret Garden Café the route led on past Cooper's Field towards the Pettigrew tearoom and exiting through the castle wall and re-crossing the river, a sea of French and Irish rugby fans were making their way into the capital city ready for the afternoon kick-off.

Continuing along the riverbank, before deviating through what was Llandaff Meadow, but soon will be a football pitch, and passing the ornate cathedral – they returned to their start point.

On October 24, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile hard walk from Cwm Giedd into the Carmarthen Fans to visit the site of a crashed World War Two Wellington bomber; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On October 25, meet 9am at Cogan for a nine mile moderate walk taking in Monmouth and Welsh Newton; contact Joy on 01446 737131 (Don't forget the clocks go back one hour!)

Follow the group log on to www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102. ***JS***

Merched y Wawr

A MOST interesting evening was spent in the company of a young and talented artist, Rhiannon Roberts, on the evening of Monday, October 12.

She spoke of her upbringing near Aberaeron and traced how her career as an artist developed. She now works from her studio in Cardiff Bay.

The members had an opportunity to buy colourful and unique items, such as coasters, cards and calendars. All members were reminded that the next meeting will be held on Monday, November 9.

One of the members, Rhian Martin, will be leading a cookery-themed evening. A warm welcome is extended to new members; second Monday of the month, Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, 7.30pm.

CAFWYD noswaith ddifyr iawn nos Lun, Hydref 12 yng nghwmni arlunydd ifanc a thalentog, Rhiannon Roberts.

Cawsom ei hanes fel merch ifanc yn ardal Aberaeron a syniad sut datblygodd ei gyrfa arlunio. Mae hi nawr yn gweithio allan o stiwdio ym Mae Caerdydd.

Cafodd yr aelodau gyfle i brynu nwyddau lliwgar ac unigriw fel 'coasters', cardiau a chalendrau. Atgoffwyd pawb bydd ein cyfarfod nesaf nos Lun, Tachwedd 9fed pan fydd Rhian Martin, un o'n haelodau, yn arwain noswaith ar thema coginio.

Croeso mawr i aelodau newydd; Ail nos Lun y mis yn y Neuadd Lai, Y Bontfaen, 7.30 y nos.

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Conner is remembered at special evening

Conner will be forever remembered by his family and many friends.

OH, what a night it was at Penarth Conservative Club – with only standing room left! Well over 200 family, friends, school and work mates – and just about anyone who knows of Conner Marshall – gathered together in what was a truly momentous celebration in his memory.

It was also a charity event to raise funds and awareness of '2 Wish Upon a Star', whose founder Rhian Burke has been a constant source of help and support for the familly since the brutal and senseless

The incredible sum of £5,851.79 was raised through people's generosity.

Huge doses of fun and enthusiasm, not to mention cash, were generated during a mind blowing auction which included Liverpool hospitality box, signed sports memorabilia, and even an extra large cup cake and so on.

The list of names, and gratitude is almost a story in itself, but the family would like to particularly thank all the donors of raffles and cash.

Donations are continuing to arrive – Emma Shumack, Sian Richards, Vicky Gee and friends of the family ran in the Cardiff Half Marathon recently and are still collecting in their donations, expecting at least in the hundreds. The internet 'Just Giving' pages are still live and increasing daily.

Appreciation has to be expressed to Col Howarth, a local comedian, who generously gave his time and expertise not only to compere this extravaganza, but entertained and took charge of the auction and raffle calls, and generally kept the evening running along.

James Hoare of JNL Discos, provided the music and cooperated with the singers Claire Roberts, Amber Reed, R1 and Connor Daniels, together with local band Lost in Chemistry – all these people are known to Conner, which made for a very poignant dedication.

Shutterhire videographer/photography provided, at short notice, memorable fun and costumes and photos for the partygoers.

A big thank you to the management of Penarth Conservative Club for their help, understanding and cooperation.

Conner has been to many family functions there, so it made the evening even more special.

Conner is loved and missed every second of the day by his parents, siblings, family, friends, and anyone who came into contact with him.

He will never be forgotten. His family will continue to strive and achieve the justice he deserves, and will continue to believe in his legacy and motto 'Life Goes On'. **PS**

JEFF'S MARATHON TRACTOR RUN HELPS LOCAL CHARITY

ABOVE: Jeff Webb (yellow jacket) is flanked by Digby and Jennie Rees. Also in the line-up are Dan Smith of the Three Horseshoes (left) and two of Jeff's friends and supporters. Picture by IAN DIXON.

A TRACTOR enthusiast from Peterston-super-Ely has just completed a 410-mile round trip to help raise funds for a cancer charity.

Jeff Webb took part in an event which asked enthusiasts to drive their tractors from Cardiff to Anglesey and back.

The run was organised to raise funds to publish a book aimed at helping children who have parents diagnosed with cancer.

A spokesman said that Jeff had anticipated raising a modest amount – under £100. However, patrons of the Three Horseshoes in the village really got behind the effort.

He said: "Thanks to the generosity of Digby and Jennie, the landlords of the pub – and all the regulars – he managed to raise £1,360, which turned out to be more than 20 per cent of the total raised by the tractor run!"

Memories of a sea cruise ship captain

ON October 13, Captain (Rtd) David Cledlyn Jones returned to Dinas Powys Probus Club to tell members about *'The People I Have Met'*.

After war service in the Merchant Navy, Cledlyn joined an American company based in New Orleans operating cruise liners chiefly in the West Indies.

On one occasion, the ship was taking 12 novice nuns to a leper colony in the Cameroons, accompanied by a very lively Mother Superior, known as 'The General'. With her habit tucked up, she joined in all the deck games to the disapproval of the nuns.

The Duke of Norfolk was a regular passenger, taking his personal cricket team to play in the Caribbean islands. David Sheppard, the future Archbishop, was often included. The Duke's team never lost, mainly because the ship's bosun insisted on the teams playing with his home-made ball, doctored in the Duke's favour.

Princess Alice of Athlone was a frequent and very popular passenger; she was Chancellor of the University of Jamaica. Cledlyn recounted that once, when formally greeting Princess, the local Governor managed to get the tall spike on his ceremonial helmet wedged between pipes at the top of the gangplank, which greatly amused Princess Alice.

On a visit to Norway, Cledlyn unwittingly accepted a lift into town from the airport with Crown Prince Harold – the subsequent publicity in the local newspapers possibly helped him at the next day's interview to get the job on offer!

The vote of thanks was given by Arthur Coxon. ***CR***

Recruitment drive by local male choir...

IT has been a memorable year for Barry Male Voice Choir – engagements have been many and varied.

High profile events have now become a part of choir life. Last month the choir was asked to provide a flavour of Welsh culture to an international conference of educationalists at the Celtic Manor Resort, Newport.

The performance, compered with aplomb by chairman Gareth Roberts, was well received by delegates from as far afield as China and South America.

"Such a performance would not have been possible a year ago," said Gareth. Last year's recruitment drive increased the choir size by 16. The choir is now better balanced as well as being a very sociable and harmonious band of brothers.

"New members for the choir are always welcome. This year's recruitment campaign will be designed to encourage any interested men to find out what singing in a choir is all about.

"We look forward to meeting them soon."

Details of the recruitment drive will soon be found on Facebook, Twitter, and in the press and choir website www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk.

LOCAL SCHOOL PUPILS PUT ARCHBISHOP ON THE SPOT!

TOUGH questions to Archbishops usually come from journalists, but pupils from two Vale schools left no stone unturned when they had the chance to quiz the Archbishop of Wales.

First off was a religious studies lesson with sixth-formers at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, which discussed the church's attitude towards gay people, abortion and euthanasia, as well as the place of clergy in today's society, school assemblies and life after death.

Dr Barry Morgan's visit had been organised by the school's head of RS, Marged Williams, and Rev Rachel Simpson, assistant curate of Llantwit Major.

Mrs Williams said: "We were delighted to welcome Archbishop Barry to the school – it was a rare and valuable opportunity for our year-12 pupils to quiz him on all sorts of ethical, moral and spiritual topics. He pitched his responses perfectly and was able to relate extremely well to the pupils who listened intently throughout."

Dr Morgan said: "It was wonderful to meet year-12 RS pupils and to see their enthusiasm to engage in life's wider questions. There was no shying away from the challenging issues and I hope they will continue to explore the different perspectives they encounter during the rest of the course and, indeed, as they travel through life."

Pendoylan pupils quiz Archbishop Barry Morgan.

The visit was part of the drive by local churches to do more for schools and young people, says Miss Simpson. Local clergy help lead assemblies, run a weekly Christian Union for year-7 and 8 and have introduced a 'Soul Space' and interactive prayer spaces.

"We're keen to show that the church is here to support the younger generation, many of whom would have no contact if we didn't go to them. We hope that by engaging with them in different ways, they will come to know the love of God in their lives."

There was no let up for the Archbishop at his next school Q&A session in Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School. After a welcome and tour of the new building, Dr Morgan took part in a round table discussion with year-5 and 6 pupils from three local Church in Wales primary schools – Pendoylan, Wick and Llansannor.

They wanted to know why he believed in God, how he persuaded others to believe in God, did he follow all God's rules, whether he had any pets and had he ever met the Queen!

Headteacher Lyn Murray said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting Archbishop Barry. We talk a lot about him and his role in class but having him there made it all more meaningful for them. It was an honour to welcome him to the school and will be an experience I'm sure the children will always remember."

PACT meetings

***CADOC** – meet your local officers at Waitrose, Barry, between 10am and 12 noon on Thursday, October 29.*

***COWBRIDGE PACT** at Cowbridge Fire Station, 11am on Monday, October 26.*

***RHOOSE** coffee and a chat will be held at the Fontygary Inn at 11am on Tuesday, October 27.*

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Primary school students turn crime scene detectives...

AS part of the school's transition programme, Llantwit Major Comprehensive recently invited year-6 pupils from St Illtyd, St Athan, Wick and Marcross, Ysgol Y Ddraig and Rhws Primary schools to take part in a Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Day.

The students were told that a laptop had been stolen from a classroom and they were to use their detective skills to solve the crime.

The police and members of staff from various departments within the school were on hand to give the pupils as much information as possible.

From the evidence they gathered, they were then asked to use their literary skills and write an account of the crime and to name the thief.

The entries were then judged by the English department at Llantwit Major School.

A member of the transition staff visited the schools with Liz Evans from the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions who sponsor the awards and presented the winners with medallions. **SB**

Sisters weren't doing it for themselves on charity run!

Emily and Sophie Arbuthnot with proud dad Ted.

VALE for Africa has received a £1,000 boost from sisters Emily and Sophie Arbuthnot, daughters of Vale optometrist Ted Arbuthnot after they completed the Cardiff Half Marathon to raise sponsorship cash for the charity, of which their dad is chairman.

It is carrying out essential work in the Tororo province of Uganda, providing basic eyecare and medical services and working to improve schooling and other basic needs.

"The £1,000 will be very welcome to help the charity continue its work. I am very grateful to them – I'm not sure I could have done it myself!" said their proud father.

'Tough action needed to deal with travellers'

Vale MP **ALUN CAIRNS** reports to GEM readers

LAST Friday, all of a sudden, I had countless messages on my phone. Local residents and traders from Barry Island were telling me that a second group of travellers in as many days had pitched up on the Nell's Point site.

I found it difficult to believe initially, but I was shocked to have it confirmed that yet another new group of travellers had picked our jewel in the Barry crown to dwell.

Dealing with travellers can be a difficult issue. That is why trespassers on any site in the Vale should always be met with the strongest possible action. In Dinas Powys back in June, readers of this newspaper will remember the debacle that took place when the travellers were afforded a two-week stay by the Vale Council.

This resulted in numerous local cricket and football fixtures being postponed and some rather unpleasant local issues. I said then that it was an unacceptable level of disruption for residents living nearby.

I said the same again this week, speaking on behalf of the many residents and traders living on Barry Island who had contacted me.

I was particularly concerned about the impact on the reputation of Barry Island. We have worked to secure a huge amount of regeneration in the past couple of years, not least the fantastic new fairground and the new businesses opening.

Anyone visiting can see the huge amount of investment that Henry Danter and other traders are putting into Barry. The site at Nell's Point is set to be sold for redevelopment, to play a part in the continued regeneration of Barry Island. The spectacle of travellers waltzing onto the site will have not done anything to help that process along.

Upon arrival of the first group of travellers, I immediately spoke with the group and the ever-helpful council officers present. The travelling group told us that they planned to stay for a couple of days, but it turned out to be almost a week.

In Dinas Powys they said the same, and they stayed for over two weeks. It is for this reason that the strongest possible action was needed from the Vale Council to send a message to travellers that trespassing, no matter where, or for what length of time, culminating in major disruption to traders and residents, would not be tolerated anywhere in the Vale.

The wonderful weather we have had in September and October kept the island busy. The traders I spoke to, and work closely with, were incredibly frustrated that despite the travellers moving to the Waterfront on Friday, the car park was then closed for the entire weekend.

Could a barrier have not been installed as soon as they vacated, as was the case in Dinas Powys? Could the entrance have not been manned until a permanent solution found?

On Saturday morning, the consequences were acutely illustrated. The popular Barry Island Park Run had over 100 runners, including me, taking part on a gloriously sunny morning.

Not only were the runners unable to park on Nell's Point, but the nearby toilet facilities were closed. This simply sends out the wrong message.

I worked with the operators of Park Run to confirm a route and the ease of access and facilities were key concerns.

We need the car park and toilet facilities to be available, and it serves to illustrate how each action or inaction has an impact on the wider council tax-paying community in Barry and the wider Vale.

COLCOT SCHOOL IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Pupils bring the harvest home to the Foodbank

COLCOT Primary School held its harvest festival on October 9 when year-6 led the assembly and provided a fun packed version of Ready Steady Cook, with a clear message on the importance of harvest.

Melissa Masterstone, from Coastlands Church in Barry, joined the school assembly and reinforced the important message for the pupils. The pupils and staff were also joined by Alun Cairns MP.

After the assembly, children from year-6 took food donations to the Foodbank at Coastlands.

All staff would like to thank the families and friends of Colcot Primary for their kind donations; they were greatly appreciated and will make a big difference to the Foodbank.

*Conditions apply, maximum £500 of vouchers (10% of £5000). Excludes selected partners and concessions, see in store for details. Valid 22/10/15 - 02/11/15. 10% back in vouchers is not available online, where an alternative offer of 5% off is available. Intervening prices available on request.
†Delivery before Christmas is subject to terms and conditions. Ask in store for details.

Recognise great deeds...

I AM writing to ask readers of the Glamorgan GEM to join me in nominating people they think should be recognised with a national St David Award.

The St David Awards, now in their third year, were established to recognise the great deeds and contributions made by people from all walks of life in Wales.

Day in, day out, groups of people and individuals are going the extra mile to make a difference to someone else's life, overcoming adversity and achieving truly inspirational things.

I'm asking your readers to nominate these fantastic people, teams or groups who are going that extra mile to benefit others and the country in general.

There are nine categories: Bravery; Citizenship; Culture; Enterprise; Innovation and Technology; Sport; Young Person; International and my Special Award, which I choose.

We're fast approaching the closure of nominations for this year's awards. Don't leave it until the last minute to nominate, it would be a shame if the people you think are truly worthy of an award miss out on the recognition they deserve.

Get involved and let someone know you appreciate them and what they've achieved. Nominating is easy, just go to www.stdavidawards.org.uk and put someone forward before midnight on October 27.

Carwyn Jones,
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AGOCC CSSIW INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

'Report hate crime' – CALL

PICTURED: The engagement team PC Paul Evans (Hate Crime Officer); PCSO Adam Like, community engagement PCSO Liz Pope; Sergeant Angela Bennett and community engagement PC Richard Paines.

A CAMPAIGN to encourage the reporting of hate crime has been launched across Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan.

South Wales Police's engagement team embarked on a brief whistle-stop tour of the region during National Hate Crime Awareness Week, which started on October 10.

Officers set up at the Barry Memorial Hall, and the following day held an event at the Hi-Tide on Porthcawl's seafront.

The aim, through presentations, role play, and video, was to raise awareness among people with disabilities or those from minority groups about what constitutes a hate crime.

Delegates were also urged to report hate crimes when they happen, to tackle the problem that many hate crimes still go unreported.

PCSO Elizabeth Pope, who organised the events, said: "It is a travesty that hate crimes are still going unreported. Unfortunately hate crimes will continue, but one of the first steps of tackling them is robust enforcement, and for that to happen, victims must have the confidence to report crimes."

Ty Hafan celebrates Hospice Care Week

CHILDREN and families supported by Tŷ Hafan celebrated Hospice Care Week with lots activities including balloon-making, a tea party and some Hallowe'en fun!

The annual week of activity raises the profile of hospice care across the UK. The theme, Connecting Care, focused on the special role hospices play in connecting with individuals and families, connecting with local communities and connecting people with each other, it was stated.

To find out how to support Tŷ Hafan children's hospice at Sully, visit www.tyhafan.org.

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BEREAVED SON OFFERS SUPPORT TO YOUNGSTERS THROUGH MARIE CURIE

A STUDENT who received bereavement counselling as a child, has returned to Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth, where his late father died, to support other young people.

Luke Waddon, from Wenvoe, was just 13 when his father, Alun, died at the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in 2008, following a two-year battle with bowel cancer.

During this difficult period Luke and his younger brother, Henry, were offered bereavement support counselling from trained Marie Curie social workers to help them come to terms with their loss.

Looking back, Luke, now 20, is grateful for the support he received and acknowledges that without that assistance at such a young age, he may have found it difficult to cope with losing his father.

Luke still regularly returns to the Marie Curie Hospice to offer his support and share his experiences with groups of children and young people affected by bereavement.

"I owe a lot to the hospice. It would have been so easy for me to go home and think about it on my own and look for relief and catharsis in alcohol, or drugs – or even just sitting on my own and getting depressed about it and not wanting to go to school, see my friends or do the things that I enjoyed.

"Everyone says that teenage years are horrible in themselves, when you don't know who you are, and you're trying to find your own way in the world – but when you've just been through a bereavement as well, that can knock things off course a bit.

"So anytime that I felt sad or angry, or any of these emotions associated with losing someone, Marie Curie were always there to tell me that it was okay to feel that way and helped me deal with what I was experiencing, because as a young person it is scary."

While he doesn't like the term 'role model', he does hope his story can be a shining light to other young people experiencing something similar to what he has been through.

"When you come to the hospice and you meet other children and young people who have experienced a similar thing, you see that they're doing okay, and it makes you feel that you can do okay as well.

"That's what I hope to be now for these younger people – to show other people that if young people do lose someone they care about that, they can still go on to be who they want to be and still have a smile on their face until the end of the day.

"I think that everyone at the group can tell that I'm not another adult trying to understand how they feel, I'm another young person who has been through a horrible experience, and I'm trying to tackle each day the best that I can.

"I do think you only know what it's like when you've been through it yourself – when you're able to walk in someone else's shoes and think back to how you were feeling at that time and how they're feeling now. It comes from the heart.

"We always fundraise for Marie Curie because we know how important every penny is, how important every moment is here, and how important every hello is and every arm around the shoulder. So if we can be there giving that arm around the shoulder to someone else now, whether that be literally in the group, or through putting a pound in someone's collection tin to help the hospice do it – if we can do that in some way and help someone else – I think it is a good way to give something back."

Andrew Wilson-Mouasher, divisional general manager for Marie Curie in Wales, said: "At Marie Curie, we are committed to providing care and support throughout a person's terminal illness

"This also extends to their family and loved ones. Bereavement support is an important part of this, and we are encouraged that Luke has benefited from the support he has received and is able to support our work going forward."

If you have questions about terminal illness, or simply want someone to talk to, call the Marie Curie Support Line on 0800 090 2309 for free confidential support and practical information on all aspects of terminal illness.

To find out more about Marie Curie services visit: https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/about.

Search and Rescue helicopter service is launched at St Athan

RIGHT: Richard Parkes, Captain Olly Padbury, chief pilot, and Samantha Willenbacher, Director of UK Search and Rescue at Bristow Helicopters Ltd.

THE launch of the St Athan civilian UK search and rescue (SAR) helicopter service was marked on October 15 in a ceremony held at the new SAR base on St Athan airfield.

Bristow Helicopters Ltd is operating the search and rescue helicopter service for the UK on behalf of HM Coastguard.

The company was awarded the ten-year UK SAR contract by the Department for Transport in March 2013. By 2017, it will deliver the service from ten bases strategically located close to areas of high SAR incident rates.

The St Athan base went live on October 4 and has already responded to calls from the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC).

Bristow crews are delivering the UK SAR helicopter service on behalf of HM Coastguard with state-of-the-art helicopters, equipped with the latest search and rescue technology including night vision, mission management and increased onboard medical capabilities.

The base was officially opened by Richard Parkes, Director of Maritime Operations at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Mr Parkes said: "HM Coastguard has been providing search and rescue helicopter services in northern Scotland and southern England for over 30 years. Today, I am immensely proud to welcome our second Welsh civilian base to the service."

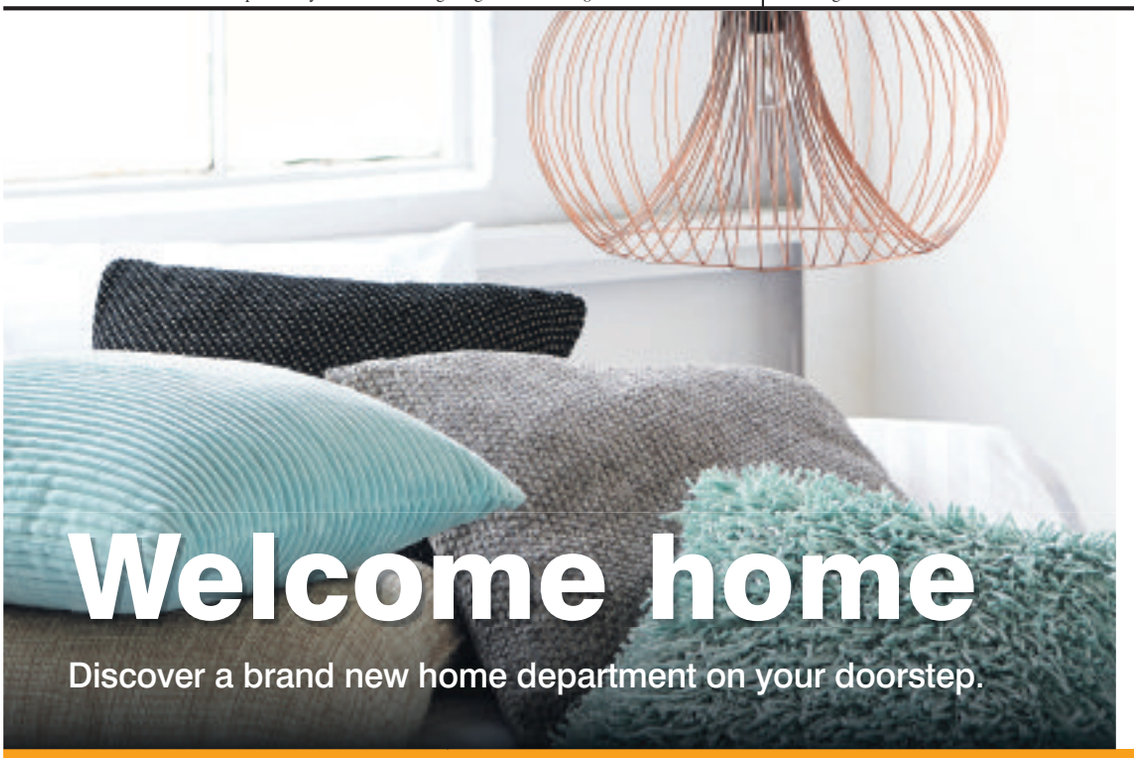
ABOVE: AW139 aircraft outside the new hangar at St Athan.

Autumn colour at Dyffryn

Dyffryn Gardens at St Nicholas in the Vale is ablaze with autumn colour, and "acers are so intense they are shining like jewels in the autumn sunshine this week," head gardener Chris Flynn, reported this week.

"Autumn is such a great time to be outdoors, there are lots of beautiful autumn colours and our collection of acers is in particular glow at this time of year. October is the best time of year to visit to really appreciate the woody collection we have at Dyffryn," he added.

See Dyffryn Gardens' website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryngardens.



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Price is just the beginning...

Aimee's charity horse ride was hard work

(for her father, that is!)

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

GEM readers may remember that earlier this year, we reported that two friends from Barry, Aimee Louise Sullivan and Catherine Phipps, were planning a three-day marathon ride for Marie Curie on their horses, *Delboy* and *Lightning*.

However, the pair hit problems over the summer, as an injury jinx struck Catherine (and her horse) – but Aimee hung in there and she and Delboy recently completed the ride!

Aimee told The GEM: "It was originally planned for June but Catherine's horse got a nail from the roads stuck in his foot so the ride was postponed to late September.

"Unfortunately, luck was not on Cat's side because she fractured her ribs a few weeks before when helping with someone else's horse.

"I didn't want to postpone until next year, so my dad Cavan Sullivan (Welsh Window Systems) said he would accompany my on his push bike along the journey."

The first day was the longest in terms of distance, from Margam Park to Ystradfellte (37 miles) – but it turned out to be a very long day indeed!

Aimee explained: "First, we found footpaths closed for forestry works. This forced us to take a longer route.

""We continued until our next dilemma an hour or so later....we were stuck right in the middle of a wind turbine construction site!

"The only way to continue out was over a cattle grid or kissing gate, neither of which a horse can pass through.

"However, luck was on our side and the construction workers were fantastic...they were all trying to find a way through/around for the horse.

They spent over an hour radioing colleagues on other sites and driving round trying to find a piece of plywood for the horse to walk over the cattle grid.

"This failed but they managed to dismantle the kissing gate instead for the horse to pass through. Fantastic work by them!

"Our problem then was losing the time meant losing daylight hours so we needed to get onto roads to continue as much of the route as possible on road, where there are streetlights as opposed to the forestry tracks.

"We eventually arrived at our stop about 8pm at night."

If Aimee thought that it would be simpler on the second day (30 miles across the Brecon Beacons to Lower Chapel) she was wrong.

This time, it was mechanical trouble.

Her dad Cavan had sensibly brought six puncture repairs with him, but he hadn't bargained on the fact that hedge trimming had recently been done, and thorns in the road meant that he had soon used up all six patches!

ABOVE: Aimee and Delboy with the construction workers who helped her on her get past a cattle grid.

The time spent repairing meant that almost two hours were lost, and then just to make life more difficult, he had two more punctures and was forced to push the bike for the rest of the day.

If cavan thought he was off for a gentle three-day ride in the country, he was mistaken!

Day three, just 15 miles from Lower Chapel to Builth Wells, was simpler.

Cavan's wife Debbie brought more inner tubes and puncture repair kits – and as Murphy's Law dictates, he didn't need any.

Aimee said: "A friend (Charlotte Powell) gave up her day to bring my car and empty trailer (along with my mum) to the finish point to meet us"; while Charlotte said "I know Delboy absolutely thrives on his work but I cannot believe how much energy he has after completing over 80 miles, he's unreal!"

ABOVE: Aimee and her dad, Cavan.

"Delboy is a 16-year-old American Standardbred ex-harness racer and I've owned him for three years.

"Mine and Catherine's target to raise for Marie Curie was originally £1,000 but the current total is £1,665. I am hoping to get to the £2,000 mark and stop pestering people...until a new event next year.

"The money has been raised between myself and Catherine."

Link for the just giving page is: https://www.justgiving.com/Aimeeandcat/ or by text: 'HOOF75', followed by: '£1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10' to: '70070'.

Action-packed autumn for the local Scouts...

FOLLOWING the summer break, 1st Penmark with Porthkerry scout group is back with an action-filled agenda.

Already the Scouts have completed their kayaking course and are now just awaiting the final assessment. They have worked hard all summer at Coed Hills woodland clearing foliage, building shelters and fires.

Also on the weekend of the September 26-27, they managed the car park at Amelia Trust Farm's Harvest Festival as part of the Million Hands project which is about providing support to raise awareness for national and local good causes.

This was followed by a night camping there. It was a long day but the sun was shining, the farm was busy and everyone had a great time.

Cubs are celebrating their 100 years and have been to Cardiff Airport's fire station, have walked the path from Brendon View Close and logged the condition of it as part of community week and they have played human hungry hippos.

Beavers have been learning about the dentist and how to care for your teeth. They have also been looking at different communication techniques including the phonetic alphabet and semaphore and have been playing wooden Vikings and making biscuits. All sections also enjoyed a 'bouncy' night at Infinity Trampolining.

The Explorer leaders have been presented with their Queen's Scout Awards by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan – well done to them!

There are lots more activities planned for the sections over the next few weeks, as well as a family prize bingo night for all to enjoy on November 14 at the Rhoose Social Club.

This will be a fundraising event for 1st Penmark with Porthkerry and if anyone would like to provide any prizes for adults or children, either personal donations or corporate, then the group would love to hear from you. Please contact penmarkwithporthkerryscouts@gmail.com

Tickets for this event will be on sale shortly and the evening will include a light supper.

1st Penmark with Porthkerry would also like to give you advance notice of the Scout Christmas post. This is one of their largest fundraising events and they look forward to receiving your support.

Stamps will be on sale in outlets throughout Rhoose and the surrounding villages in due course and the group would be grateful if you would purchase your stamps from these outlets, that way the profits go to 1st Penmark with Porthkerry.

The group will be sorting the post on December 7-10 and it can be delivered throughout Cardiff and the Vale.

Finally, 1st Penmark with Porthkerry is a hugely successful scout group who work very hard in providing an exciting and varied programme of activities that the children can enjoy and learn from. If you would like to be part of this group they would love to hear from you.

There are roles on the executive committee as well as within the sections, from occasional helpers to section leaders.

The Scout section in particular is looking for uniformed leaders. If you feel you have a few hours to spare each week please get in touch. You can do as much or as little as you wish and will be fully supported throughout.

All section roles are subject to a DBS check. If you want more information please speak to any of the leaders or contact the Group Scout Leader on penmarkwithporthkerryscouts@gmail.com

Also don't forget the work day on October 18 at the Scout hut. Any help would be gratefully received.

COLETTE RAYMOND

White Gecko Craft Lounge to open!

OPENING in Dinas Powys on Friday, October 30, the White Gecko Craft Lounge will provide people's craft, coffee and cake needs!

The shop will be stocking a range of craft items including paper crafts, beading, wool, fabric plus much more. Craft workshops and courses will also take place. A spokeswoman said: "On opening day, the shop will be running drop-in craft activities so children can make a trick or treat Hallowe'en bag between 10am to 4pm and parents can enjoy some refreshments while they wait for their little ones!

"Visit us at 13 Camms Corner, call 029 2115 2628 or find the shop page on Facebook."

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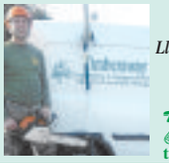

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THE FRIENDS OF BARRY BEACHES CELEBRATE THEIR FIFTH BIRTHDAY

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will be holding their next beach clean at Whitmore Bay (Barry Island) on Sunday, October 25, outside Marco's cafe at 3pm.

"If you like visiting clean and tidy beaches, then why not spend an hour of your time volunteering to keep it that way?" the group urges.

The September litter pick volunteers celebrated the group's fifth birthday with cake and hot drinks, and the AGM saw Rob Curtis re-elected as its chairman/co-ordinator, Verity Allely as secretary, and Claire Curtis as treasurer.

All litter picking equipment will be supplied, but wear sturdy shoes or boots and dress for weather conditions on the day.

For further information, see www.fobb.btck.co.uk or follow the group on facebook.

Group gets Pumphouse tour

FOCUSBARRY recently met at the Pumphouse, Barry Waterfront, where the developer briefed members, supporters and friends about the mixed use development.

Mr Simon Baston introduced himself and explained his reasons and vision for the scheme.

The ground floor will have a gym, coffee shop/restaurant, and above that are 15 live/work units, where small businesses will be run or they will be let for residential purposes – all 15 are in private ownership.

Mr Baston showed part of the original crane, which has been relocated to the entrance ceiling and explained the difficulties this entailed.

He has sympathetically restored this building and all the apartments have an open plan layout and are equipped for modern day living.

The bedrooms have been created on a mezzanine level, overlooking the lounge area.

The style of the building is that of a New York loft apartment, where metal beams have been used as skirting boards and also in the roof trusses.

All of the apartments have solid wood flooring and planks were sourced from an old cinema in the north of England.

Each flat has been named after a ship, reflecting Barry Docks history as the largest coal exporter in the world.

The ground floor is nearing completion and it will contain gym equipment in the next couple of weeks.

The group were shown around the restaurant area, where work is still progressing.

Dennis Harkus,
Chair, FocusBARRY

First Welsh run is all set to Glow!

RNIB Cymru (Royal National Institute of Blind People) is counting down to its first Welsh Glow Neon 3k Fun Run at the International Sports Stadium this Saturday, October 24.

Taking place after dark, the run is inspired by the colourful full moon parties of Thailand. Participants can run, walk or even dance their way around the track under the UV lights while being sprayed with luminous colourful paint.

All money raised from RNIB Glow will help RNIB provide practical and emotional support to everyone affected by sight loss.

Made in Cardiff TV's Mariclare Carey-Jones will open the event at 7pm.

RNIB Cymru's fundraising manager, Carol McKinlay said: "We're so excited about hosting an RNIB Glow run at Cardiff International Sports Stadium this year – the first in Wales. It's such a fun and colourful event and for a great cause.

"The run is 3k long so is suitable for most people. It is an excellent starting point for people who want to get fit – and of course for people looking for a fun start to the weekend."

RNIB Glow is open to anyone over the age of 10 and is fully accessible to blind and partially sighted participants. Guide runners are available to support any blind or partially sighted people.

It costs £10 to register, and all participants are asked to raise a minimum of £25 sponsorship (£15 for students, £10 for children). Visit www.rnib.org.uk/glow to find out more and register.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Heartbroken mum Lucy on the catwalk to support Ty Hafan children's hospice

Ezra with big sister Bailey.

WHEN parents Lee and Lucy took eight-week-old Ezra to the doctors with a chest infection, they never thought that two weeks later they would be saying goodbye to their precious son.

Ezra was born on January 12, 2015 without any complications and appeared to be a healthy baby boy. Lee Morgan and Lucy Froley from Bridgend were delighted to complete their family and give their two-year-old daughter, Bailey, a beautiful younger brother.

But a few months later, Ezra became poorly so Lucy took him to see their GP. Lucy said: "Ezra fell ill with a chest infection which we didn't think was much to worry about until I took him to the doctors. After two minutes, the doctor gave him oxygen and an ambulance was called."

Ezra was taken to the University Hospital of Wales and was put on a life-support machine. After being diagnosed with SMA Type 1 – a rare genetic muscular disease – he was referred

to Tŷ Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales at Sully.

"Tŷ Hafan took care of us as there was no cure for Ezra's condition," said Lucy. Before going, I had no idea about Tŷ Hafan and what they did. They are a brilliant charity which helps children and families through the hardest times of their lives.

"They supported us with anything, from making us tea, to talking to us and making memories happen. Ezra survived for 24 hours after being taken off the ventilator at Tŷ Hafan. In those 24 hours, Tŷ Hafan made so many memories happen for us – hand and foot prints of Ezra and his two-year-old big sister, and finger prints on little butterflies.

"Before Ezra passed away on March 6 we had the most fabulous and magical family day anyone in our circumstances could dream of, all thanks to Tŷ Hafan. Nothing was hard work for them and they cooked all our family food. We could have had all our family to stay, too."

As a way to say thank you, Lucy is taking part in a fashion show in aid of Tŷ Hafan with other mums supported by the charity.

"I am so happy to take part in the Tŷ Hafan fashion show to raise more money and to make people aware of how hard things can be, and how brilliant Tŷ Hafan is," said Lucy.

"I want to make sure everyone is aware of what Tŷ Hafan does instead of finding out like me and my family."

Tickets for the fashion show, taking place at Porthcawl's Hi-Tide Hotel at 6.30pm on November 12, are £7.50 and can be bought from Cerys' Closet in Kenfig Hill, or Tŷ Hafan's shop in Porthcawl.

For more information on Tŷ Hafan, visit www.tyhafan.org.

Welsh Tory leader says 'Wear it Pink!'

Andrew RT Davies wears it pink!

THE South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, has donned his "favourite colour pink" in support for women with breast cancer.

Breast Cancer Now's flagship fundraiser 'wear it pink' takes place on Friday, October 23.

The campaign is the UK's biggest pink fundraiser and calls on supporters across the country to ditch the day-to-day colours and pull on some pink to raise money for Breast Cancer Now's life-saving breast cancer research.

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Mr Davies, said he has also instructed his constituency employees based in Cowbridge to wear pink: "As ever, this was some good light-hearted fun, with a serious message and it is a privilege to join with others across Wales to support such a fantastic cause," HE SAID.

"Make no bones about it, this disease is a truly awful killer and while significant progress has been made in the battle there is still so much more to do.

"Every year around 2,600 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in Wales and sadly nearly 600 people still lose their lives to the disease.

"This is why it's so important we must continue to raise awareness and fight against this horrid disease."

Cathedral School's 'outstanding' results in first year of A-levels

FOLLOWING the introduction of Sixth Form teaching two years ago, the Cathedral School's first set of A-level results in August was outstanding.

Every student passed every examination and a third of all grades were at the most coveted A* level, two thirds were A* or A.

In all, 85 per cent of grades were top grades of A*-B and students are progressing to the most selective and sought-after universities, including Cambridge, Imperial College London, Durham and Bristol.

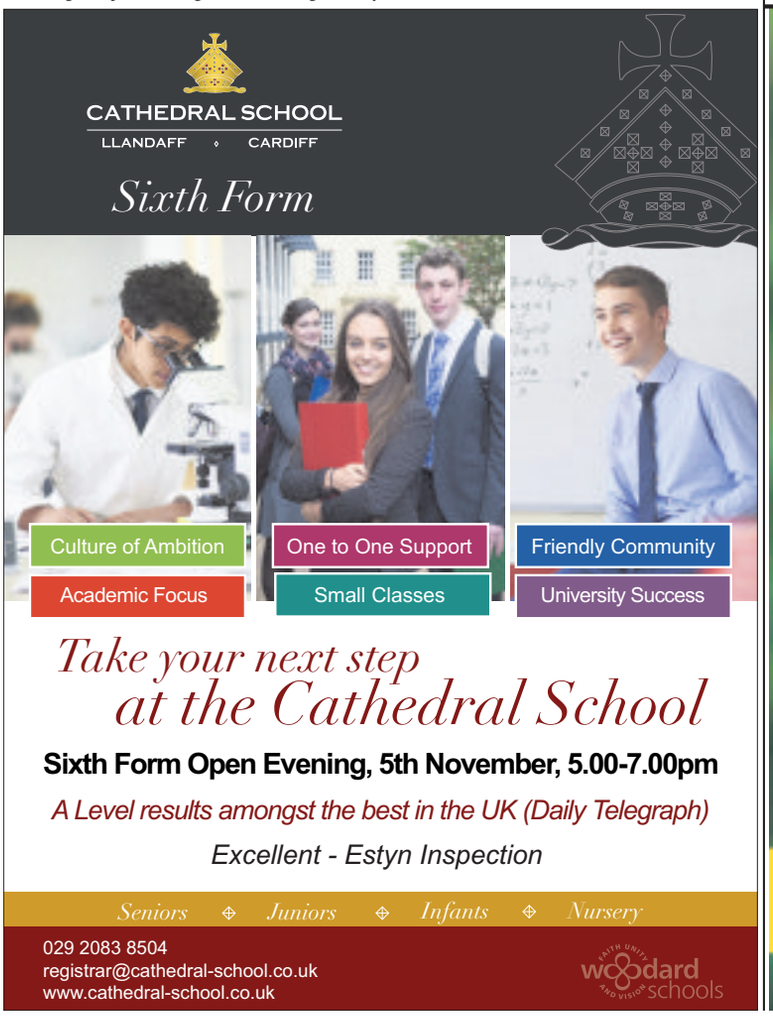
Sixth formers study and socialise in the dynamic, yet relaxed atmosphere of the Sixth Form Centre, which includes a common room, café and fully equipped study area.

With a full range of academic subjects available, very small classes, and highly-experienced staff with close university links, the sixth form culture is ambitious and supportive in equal measure.

Our professional mentoring programme pairs students with leading figures in the areas of working life they are interested in, for advice and guidance. We regularly welcome inspirational practitioners as part of our 'Inspire to…' events and students are also able to network at Cardiff Business Club.

Financial support is available for bright pupils at year-12 entry, with scholarships for especially gifted students and means-tested bursaries worth up to 100 per cent of fees.

• *For further information, visit www.cathedral-school.co.uk or contact Registrar Mrs Pam Critcher on* ***029 2083 8504****; or* ***registrar@cathedral-school.co.uk.***



Shwmae Su'mae Day 2015 celebrations 'great success'

ON Thursday, October 15, the third Shwmae Su'mae Day was held, and once again, Menter Bro Ogwr and many others across the country, were busy encouraging people to greet everyone with 'Shwmae' neu 'Su'mae'.

This year, Menter Bro Ogwr took Sali Mali to Porthcawl, Sainsbury's and Bridgend to greet people and spread the word about the day. Sali Mali met a number of lovely people on her travels and had some very nice photographs taken with them.

You can see the photographs on Menter Bro Ogwr's Facebook page (@menterbroogwr) and some on our website and on Twitter too.

We also asked you to share your photographs of you celebrating Shwmae Day on our Facebook and Twitter pages for a chance to win a voucher for Siop yr Hen Bont. The winning photograph will be selected next week.

Menter Bro Ogwr would like to say thank you to the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl for the welcome and for Sali Mali's personal dressing room and to Sainsbury's for the welcome too.

We would also like to thank Aberkenfig Squadron, Tyfu gyda'r Gymraeg – Penybont, Bridgend Libraries, Cafe Mimis, The Bridge, Bridgend College, YellowWales, BAVO, Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach Sarn, Noddfa Community Project, Siop Siarad Penybont and everyone else that have contributed their fabulous photos!

It's been wonderful to see everyone embracing this national day. Menter Bro Ogwr can't wait for the next Shwmae Su'mae Day next year!

Llwyddiant Dathliadau Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae 2015

AR ddydd Iau, Hydref 15fed cynhaliwyd y trydydd Diwrnod Shwmae Sumae, ac unwaith eto buodd Menter Bro Ogwr a nifer o bobl eraill ar draws y wlad yn brysur yn annog pobl i gyfarch pawb gyda 'Shwmae' neu 'Su'mae'.

Eleni, aeth Menter Bro Ogwr â Sali Mali i Borthcawl, Sainsbury's a Phen-y-bont i gyfarch pobl a lledaenu'r neges am y diwrnod. Cwrddodd Sali Mali â nifer o bobl hyfryd ar ei theithiau ac fe dynnwyd nifer o luniau neis gyda nhw.

Mae'r lluniau yma nawr i'w gweld ar dudalen Facebook Menter Bro Ogwr (@menterbroogwr) a rhai ar ein gwefan ac ar Twitter hefyd.

Gofynnon ni hefyd i chi bostio eich lluniau ohonoch chi'n dathlu diwrnod Shwmae ar ein tudalen Facebook a Twitter am gyfle i ennill taleb ar gyfer Siop yr Hen Bont. Bydd y llun buddugol yn cael ei ddewis wythnos nesaf.

Hoffai Menter Bro Ogwr ddiolch yn fawr iawn i Bafiliwn y Grand ym Mhorthcawl am y croeso ac yr ystafell wisgo bersonol i Sali Mali ac i Sainsbury's hefyd am y croeso.

Diolch hefyd i Sgwadron Abercynffig, Tyfu gyda'r Gymraeg, Pen-y-bont, Llyfrgell Pen-y-bont, Cafe Mimis, The Bridge, Coleg Pen-y-bont, YellowWales, BAVO, Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach Sarn, Prosiect Cymunedol Noddfa, Siop Siarad Pen-y-bont a phawb arall sydd wedi cyfrannu eu lluniau bendigedig!

Mae wedi bod yn hyfryd gweld pawb yn cofleidio'r diwrnod cenedlaethol yma. Mae Menter Bro Ogwr yn methu aros tan ddiwrnod Shwmae Su'mae blwyddyn nesaf!

Menter Bro Ogwr: menter@broogwr.org, 01656 732200, www.menterbroogwr.org

WHAT'S ON
news in brief

Drivers needed

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale Good Neighbour Scheme are looking for drivers in the area.

Mileage is paid. Contact 01446 747654 for further information.

Tax advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale run free monthly advice sessions on tax affairs at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

The next session will be on Monday, October 26 at 9.30am-11.30am; no appointment needed.

Call 01446 732385 for information.

Clairvoyance

TWO special evenings of clairvoyance will be held next week at the Cadoxton Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road.

On Wednesday, October 28 with Sue Moss from Hereford, admission £1.

On Friday, October 30 with Moyà O'Dwyer, admission £7.50.

Doors open 6.30pm, pay at the door. For further information, contact Marjorie on 01446 746670.

Charity night

ON October 29 at 6.30pm, the Tudor Tavern, Llantwit Major, hosts a charity night, featuring bingo with a difference, Tom's head shave, and a dance to finish!

Tickets (£5) include a basket meal and a bingo ticket; contact Matt on 0771 8201044 or available on the door.

FLIGHT THROUGH TIME FOR PENARTH AVIATION SOCIETY

PENARTH Aviation Society recently continued the tradition of visiting sites of interest to aviators.

Following the midsummer visit to Imperial War Museum at Duxford near Cambridge, members made the short trip across the Severn to the Jet Age Museum at Staverton Airport in Gloucester.

The museum houses exhibits showing the history of the Gloster Aircraft Company. From its beginning as a producer of fine quality wood carvings it developed into a manufacturer of aircraft during World War One and it produced many fine aircraft at its Gloucestershire sites.

Gloster was the company selected to produce the prototype jet aircraft for Sir Frank Whittle's jet engine. It was during a ground run at the Brockworth site that the jet briefly left the ground. It can therefore be claimed that the first jet flight took place here, not at RAF Cranwell, where the trials took place.

The Vulcan cockpit at Staverton Airport.

Gloster developed some notable jet aircraft after this start; the Meteor and Javelin the most recognised. The museum's collection includes these aircraft (or replicas) along with cockpit and front fuselage of a Trident airliner (complete with ashtrays for the pilots!) and an Avro Vulcan.

The cramped conditions in this aircraft have to be seen to be believed! **DE**

Explore The GEM online: barry-today.co.uk • cowbridge-today.co.uk llantwit-major-today.co.uk • porthcawl-today.co.uk • bridgend-today.co.uk

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Concert raises £700 for DPVC

ST Peter's Church in Dinas Powys was the venue for an evening of music performed by Cor y Gyrlais from the heart of the Welsh Valleys.

The concert was organised by Huw Parkman, their musical director, of Greenwillows Funeral Care in the village.

The event raised over £700 for Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC). John Fanshaw, chairman of DPVC, said: "It was lovely to see the church so full and there was a wonderful atmosphere. A huge thank you to Huw for organising and to Fr Andrew James for offering St Peter's as a venue."

For more information about DPVC and the services it offers, contact 02920 513700. For information about St Peter's, email stpetersdinaspowys @gmail.com.

Out and About with The GEM

These lucky black cats want to follow you home!

Mojito and Martini.

CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is holding a Black Cat Bonanza at the centre on Saturday, October 24 (10.30am – 3.30pm).

The event has been organised in the lead-up to the annual National Black Cat Day taking place on October 27 to encourage people to 'adopt' an unwanted black or black-white moggy, as well as raising funds to help the centre.

The charity is asking people to use the day to 'paws' for thought and consider the plight of black cats that tend to lose out on homes when owners choose more colourful felines.

Nationally, Cats Protection's 250 volunteer-run branches and 32 centres are currently looking after between 5,000 and 6,000 cats. Around half of these are black or black and white and, on average, each of these cats waits around three weeks longer than other moggies to be rehomed.

Sue Dobbs, centre manager, said: "The Black Cat Bonanza will be themed around Hallowe'en.

"There will be a lot to see and do, including a creepy cavern, competitions for best dressed black human cat, best cat-themed carved pumpkin as well as raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac, refreshments, and a children's corner.

"Entry is £1 adults, 50p children and three and under free."

To find out more about the Black Cat Bonanza or to adopt a cat or kitten, telephone 01656 724396 or email bridgend@cats.org.uk.

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THIS PAN FLIES... BUT IT DOESN'T TRULY SOAR!

GIVEN how prequels have become the current trend in cinemas, we are slowly learning all there is to know about a raft of characters we didn't necessarily need or want to know more about.

The latest to have his early days made into film is that of Peter Pan in Joe Wright's *Pan*.

Peter (played by newcomer Levi Miller) is left at a boy's home by his mother, and grows up hoping that they will one day be reunited. However, one night Peter is taken, along with a number of other boys, by a group of pirates – their destination? Neverland.

The boys have been captured by the nefarious Blackbeard (Hugh Jackman), the deadliest and most feared man in Neverland, who wants them to mine for fairy dust; but when Peter is deemed to be the 'Pan', the man who will defeat Blackbeard, he escapes Blackbeard's clutches. With the help of James Hook (Garrett Hedlund) and Tiger Lily (Rooney Mara), he aims to stop the pirate from wiping out the fairies that give him his power...

JM Barrie's *Peter Pan* is one of the most enduring stories, and iconic characters, in literary history, which has, understandably, made him ripe for the pickings when it comes to adapting the story for the big screen.

While Hook told us of Peter's life post-Neverland (where the boy who would never grow up did just that), *Pan* takes us behind the curtain to see just how Peter Pan came to be.

As a concept, it certainly feels redundant; after all, the number of films delving into the backstory of characters seems to be ten a penny at the present, and why do we really need to find out the whys and hows of characters – isn't our imagination enough any more?However, that being said, under the direction of Joe Wright, *Pan* is actually a very entertaining piece of work, vibrant, full of life and energy with enough quirks to make it stand out on its own, even if it sometimes trips up under the weight of its history.

Wright has shown in his previous work that he is a director capable of wowing you visually without losing sight of the story, and he does a great job here. There are several inventive set-pieces (the boys being taken from their beds by the pirates a stand-out), while the bright colour palette gives the film a dreamy, vibrant look that you can't help but enjoy.

There some nice little idiosyncrasies (the boys in the mines singing Nirvana and the Ramones) which give the film a quirky sensibility, and even if his climactic sequence feels ripped from the pages of any number of blockbusters (*Pirates of the Caribbean* most notably), Wright's

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

wonderful direction lends the film an energy that the cast feed upon.

Newcomer Levi Miller could have been an annoyance as Peter, but instead is a charming lead – this Peter lacking the swagger and cocksureness of his future self and is instead weighed down by the sadness of trying to find his mother and deal with this new world, and Miller does a fine job.

Hugh Jackman's villainous Blackbeard devours the screen with relish but Jackman refrains from going full pantomime, the darkness of the character, and the knowledge his fate is possibly entwined with Peter's, adding a nice degree of depth; while Rooney Mara's Tiger Lily provides some gender balance and makes her a satisfying, if underwritten, character.

The only weak performance comes from Garrett Hedlund as James Hook, the actor's 'performance' consisting of tilting his head to one side and talking in what can only be described as a poor impersonation of Jim Carrey's Grinch.

More wooden than all of the ships in Blackbeard's fleet, Hedlund's presence is an annoyance, so much so that you hope the film deviates from the mythology and sees him eaten whole by the crocodile, only so we don't have to put up with his atrocious performance!

Screenwriter Jason Fuchs offers some nice ideas and plays on what we know will happen in the future with these characters, but the plot itself is far too muddled and coasts by in large thanks to Wright's visual inventiveness.

What could have been a shameless cash-in of a beloved character instead ends up being a more than passable effort – this *Pan* flies, but it doesn't truly soar!

VERDICT: Dazzlingly colourful and visually ambitious, *Pan* doesn't quite match director Joe Wright's ambition with a story that is a little too complex, but with satisfying performances (Garrett Hedlund aside) and a charm and fizz, it makes for an entertaining experience. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Hook* (1991), *Oz The Great and Powerful* (2013).

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA...

Poetry residency

POET Rhian Edwards is the artist in residence at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend from October 19 - 24.

The residency includes a film, music and sound installation by Grant Davies, poetry by Rhian Edwards, as well as archive photograph and film footage of the Art Deco cinema, once an iconic symbol in Bridgend.

The residency at Carnegie House will be open from 11am-1pm.

A guided tour of the lost and forgotten cinemas of Bridgend by local historian Natalie Murphy will take place on October 24, leaving Carnegie House at 1pm.

Lib Dem advice

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding three advice surgeries next week.

This Friday, October 23, he will be in Maesteg Library from 2pm to 3pm, he will then be at Port Talbot Library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and Townhill Library from 5pm to 6pm. *No appointment is necessary.*

Lunchtime music

ALL Saints' Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be welcoming young talent from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for an autumn of free concerts, beginning on October 26 with a programme of medieval music.

Music At Lunchtime, now in its third year, will feature opera, organ, piano – a veritable pot pourri of entertainment! Audiences can enjoy lunch on the mezzanine gallery while they listen, or sit downstairs. Bring your own lunch: teas, coffees and cold drinks provided.

Each concert starts at 1pm and lasts approximately one hour. The church is completely accessible to disabled people.

Further details can be obtained on 02920 703170 (admin@allsaintspenarth.org.uk).

Cards for good causes

IT may only be October, but a little bit of Christmas cheer is coming to Cowbridge with the opening of the Cards for Good Causes seasonal shop at Old Hall Community Centre in the High Street.

The charity is once again decking the halls in its Cowbridge shop, offering an array of festive cards and Christmas gift ideas.

Staffed by volunteers, the outlet sells cards for more than 25 national and local charities, including Cancer Research Wales and Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales.

This season's shop manager, Judith Hales, said: "Our seasonal shops are a great way to prepare for Christmas, while at the same time providing an important source of funding for charities.

"In keeping with the Christmas spirit, sending charity Christmas cards allows you to give twice – once to friends and family, and again to worthwhile causes of your choice."

Look out for Good Causes' distinctive triangular red Santa sign on the High Street in Cowbridge.

The shop will be open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday, from October 26 to December 18.

Glamorgan NFU meeting

GLAMORGAN NFU Cymru will meet on Wednesday, October 28 at the Grove Golf Club, Cornelly.

The meeting will be addressed by Eleri Price from Crai, near Brecon, who will do a presentation on her recent study tour of Australia and New Zealand where she explored genetic selection for lamb meat yield and quality.

For further information, email sarah.jones@nfu.org.uk or phone 01982 554200.

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on October 29 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Town Hall.

The speaker will be Eva Krasenska from the Flower Hive, Pencoed, who will talk on 'seasonal decorations' and give demonstrations.

New members welcome.

Organist launches music festival

RENOWNED international concert organist Gordon Stewart will be giving a recital at All Saints' Church, Barry on Saturday, October 31 at 7.30pm.

Music for All Hallows Eve forms part of the music festival at All Saints' Barry to raise funds for the parish.

Gordon was director of the Royal School of Church Music Millennium Youth Choir for three years and a popular musical director for BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*. He is also a regular musical director for BBC Radio 4's *Daily Service*.

For tickets email music@allsaintsbarry.org.uk or contact the box office on 07429 598820.

Spooky times down on the farm!

THINGS are getting spooky at Amelia Trust farm this half term, where children can go on a tour and help to groom a bunny!

There are cake decorating sessions where children can make spooky goodies to take home and they can also try their hand at worm charming!

On October 30, there is the farm's first ever Creepy Crawly Show, from 11am – 3pm; there will also be the opportunity to do spooky craft activities.

For details, check the website, Facebook or Twitter pages, or email jow@ameliatrust.org.uk.

Hallowe'en dinner/dance

VALEPLUS, the Vale-based charity, will be holding a Hallowe'en dinner/ dance on Friday, October 30 in Brynhill Golf Club, Barry, from 7.30pm-11pm.

Tickets (£16), include a buffet and disco; all welcome.

There will be a fundraising raffle, with proceeds going to the4 ValePlus minibus fund. Information and tickets from ValePlus on 01446 746691 or see www.valeplus.org.uk.

Flower club

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers' Club meets on Wednesday, November 4 for a Christmas demonstration entitled 'Deck The Halls', by National Demonstrator Pam Lewis.

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm; visitors £7, to include a seasonal drink and mince pie. *For further information, phone 01446 774333.*

Age Connects coffee

Age Connects will hold a coffee morning at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Saturday, November 7 (10am – 12 noon).

New and nearly-new ladies', men's and children's clothes; refreshments and a raffle. All proceeds go to Age Connects Senior Health Shop.

Donations of clothes are welcome, and can be handed in at the shop. Contact 01446 732385 for more information.

Local Rotarians hand over fifth lifesaving defibrillator to farm

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Visit our **website** - cowbridge-today.co.uk

THE Rotary Club of Barry has presented a defibrillator, purchased with the help of Welsh Hearts, to the Amelia Trust Farm.

This is the fifth defibrillator that the club has presented in the local area.

October marks the start of a busy autumn programme for the club. On Thursday, (October 22) they will host an international lunch in the Memorial Hall with the Inner Wheel Club of Barry. Plans are well in hand for the annual Fireworks Fiesta to be held on Barry Island at 7.45pm on Thursday, November 5 come rain or shine!

The club will have stalls at the High Street Christmas lights switch-on at the end of November and will also be supporting the Dinas Powys Dickensian fair in December. A Christmas concert with Inner Wheel in a residential home in Barry is also planned in December.

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Glenbrook Inn on Thursdays at 6pm for 6.30pm start. More details are available from secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000, or visit ribi.org

The photograph shows club president Paul Halstead making the presentation to Karen Turnbull, director of the Amelia Trust Farm.

CELEBRATING WI GROUPS ON A TOUR OF THE SENEDD

MEMBERS of Glamorgan WI branches celebrating the centenary of the movement, are being invited to the Senedd for an official tour of the Senedd with talk, tea and Welsh cakes.

The first visits were undertaken by Rhoose, Llantwit Major and Barry WI groups, who were welcomed by the Vale AM Jane Hutt on October 9.

Ms Hutt commented that after 100 years, it was inspiring to see how women continue to join together to make a difference in matters that are important to them."

Jane Hutt AM with WI members from Rhoose, Llantwit Major and Barry.

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Frustration for Vale Council – and public

... as more travellers arrive at Nell's Point

by GEM REPORTER

THE travellers who occupied Nell's Point car park early last week, moved on after the Vale Council obtained a legal order – only for a new group to arrive on Friday.

It meant frustration for the council officials who had spent Thursday, October 15, tidying up the car park in preparation for the public to be able to use it over the weekend.

When the second group arrived last Friday, a trader told The GEM: "I couldn't believe it when another group of travellers turned up.

" It will have an effect on trade because people can't park at Nell's Point while travellers occupy the land.

"I wonder whether the Vale Council will be able to recoup some of the costs incurred by first group of travellers.

"I presume the council can track them through their licence plates."

However, the second group did not stay long. A council statement, released on Friday, said: "The Vale Council has removed a group of travellers who had occupied Nell's Point car park at Barry Island without authorisation, for the second time this week.

"On Friday, October 16, the council served an order for possession to travellers who had arrived earlier that day, after a group had previously been removed from the site on Wednesday, October 14.

"The council was granted the order at a hearing at Cardiff Civil Justice Centre earlier in the week.

"The car park will remain closed for the weekend."

Vale MP Alun Cairns has been at loggerheads with the Vale Council over the issue, and he is suggesting that travellers were allowed to stay too long when they occupied playing fields in Dinas Powys in the summer.

(This issue is the subject of Mr Cairns' column on page 9).

The Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale, Ross England, said: "There is a very real risk that the Vale now has a reputation as being soft on trespassers.

"The council must do everything possible within the law to remove trespassers as quickly as possible."

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‘I feel like a million dollars – *well, half a million!*’

John and Mary .

IF you want to know what half a million dollars feels like in your hands, visit the state treasury in the Arkansas capital at Little Rock.

A Cadoxton couple, John and Mary Viney, did this while on a driving tour through Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi. They stopped off for two days in Little Rock.

.“On this trip, I was determined to get to the three capitals I had missed on previous visits,” John said.

“It was fascinating touring the buildings housing old and new Government agencies in Montgomery, Alabama and Jackson, Mississippi, but what happened at Little Rock made lasting memories.

“During a self-guided tour of the building, built in the early part of the 19th century, we came across the invitation to visit the treasury, and opened the door. When they knew we were from Wales, we received an extra special warm welcome.

“Our host invited us to open the large vault door weighing 11 tons and installed in 1912, revealing a hoard of bundled cash.

“She told us we were lucky, as state law dictates they must keep at least $250,000 within, but they had just received a delivery totalling $500,000.

“We raised our arms, as bundles ranging from $50,000 to $100,000, were placed in a pile and as each bundle went on, the excitement increased until we were carrying the half million.

“They had a photographer take our photo and the smiles showed how much such an experience meant.

“After several minutes of information about the treasury from our host, sadly, it was time to place it all back, the hard part!

“But more surprises were to come: state treasurer Dennis Milligan had been informed visitors from Wales were here and he came out and invited us into his office for coffee and a chat.

“Keen to find out about Wales, he asked lots of questions. It was interesting to know he had only been elected treasurer a matter of months and already his decisions on investing the people’s money were paying dividends.

“The sobering part was to learn that a predecessor was jailed for two years for bribery and corruption!

“Dennis gave us some information about his business and family life and then it was time to leave, but not before some bags containing Arkansas ‘goodies’ and all printed photos were handed over for us to take home.

“Before leaving, our host told us that the treasury was the most visited office in the capital because the state law gave all residents of Arkansas the absolute right to “see the money”, as it belongs to the people.

“We certainly saw it and also held it in our hands; so when we hear that expression – ‘feels like a million dollars’ – we will know exactly what they mean!” John added.

VALE COUNCIL IN LINE FOR AWARD

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has been shortlisted by the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) for a Sustainability and Resource Award.

The awards recognise good examples of partnership working to achieve a safer, cleaner environment.

The council picked up the award for its initiative in setting up the Visible Services Task Group comprising, Keep Wales Tidy, South Wales Police, the Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, South Wales Fire Service, fly tipping Wales, local businesses, landlords and members of the local community.

The Visible Services Task Force provides advice and help on recycling and disposing of waste correctly.

Cabinet member for visible and leisure services, Coun Gwyn John, said: “This is a wonderful achievement, and shows how much more effective we can be when we work in partnership with others. Initiatives such as this foster a real community spirit and will hopefully make the Vale of Glamorgan a safer and cleaner place for visitors and residents alike.”

The award ceremony takes place in London on November 5.

Sherman play wins an award

SHERMAN Cymru has won a UK theatre award for best new play for Bridgend-born Gary Owen’s play *Iphigenia in Splott*.

Directed by Rachel O’Riordan, it has been widely praised by audiences and critics since its opening on May 8.

Rachel O’Riordan commented: “I am very proud of Gary Owen’s fantastic achievement, and the recognition of his talent this award so wonderfully represents.”

The play focuses on the impact of welfare cuts on today’s society.

Directory of volunteers

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) has published a free directory of almost 500 voluntary and community groups in the Vale.

For free electronic copies email GVS enquiries@gvs.wales. Hard copies available at Glamorgan Voluntary Services, Barry Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry, CF62 9DA.

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READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

KEEP TAX CREDITS

THE Government has no idea that people depend on tax credits to survive, and there will be a lot more having to claim other benefits if the tax credits are reduced.

It's ok for those with large salaries and second homes, but other people are not so lucky.

Ellen Martin,
Barry.

A special invite from the Butterflies' team!

THE Butterflies team would like to invite you to our Christmas Butterflies and Yankee Candle famous event on Sunday, November 1 from 11am – 4pm at Butterflies, 8 High Street, Barry.

For amazing special offers, goodie bags and lots more, I have also decided to make this event even bigger and extra special and link it with two special charities that mean a lot to me.

Atal Y Fro – supporting through domestic violence, have been an amazing help, and also Vale Plus Cafe No. 5, who give opportunities for people with special needs and make amazing food including the best ever hot chocolate which I have to have every morning!

During our event we will be raising awareness for both these amazing charities and, hopefully, raise money through our amazing raffle and donations.

We also have an extra special surprise that we will be opening on the day of our event – an extension to our fabulous store. We will also be giving away special keys to this amazing extension for the first customers of the day to open and view first.

Our great team has put much thought and effort into the event and really hope that you will enjoy this special day.

We will be working with Cafe No. 5, where you can also pick up your goodie bags and enter our raffle – plus a free cake with every drink purchased!

Please contact us for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

Write Will FOR FREE!

LOCAL solicitors are offering their services on a voluntary basis, to help people write their Will this November during Will Aid's Make a Will Month.

Instead of charging a fee, they are inviting the Will-maker to make a voluntary donation to Will Aid.

The suggested donation is £95 for a single basic Will and £150 for a pair of basic matching or 'mirror' Wills.

All the money donated is shared between the nine participating charities that carry out life changing work here in the UK and around the world.

Most charity Will schemes are aimed at older people. Will Aid is different.

It is open to adults of any age and that's because Will Aid solicitors know how important it is for everyone to have a proper Will.

It doesn't matter whether you are 18 or 80 years old if you want your worldly possessions to go to particular individuals or organisations, you need to have a valid Will and keep it up to date.

If you have young children, it is also vital to ensure that you have made arrangements for their guardianship should the worst happen.

Will Aid is a fantastic opportunity to get an affordable Will and give to good causes at the same time.

You can contact a Will Aid solicitor today to make an appointment. Participating solicitors in this area are:

RLE Law: Ms Emma Hardwidge, telephone 01656 656861, 4 Derwen Road, Bridgend, CF31 1LH; and Alan Simons & Co: Mr Gianpiero Molinu, telephone 02920 703991, 5 Bradenham Place, Penarth, CF64 2AG.

Peter de Vena Franks,
Will Aid Campaign Director.

Law-makers must act to curb rugby injuries

PROFESSOR John Fairclough's remarks about the high incidence of injuries in rugby received a great deal of coverage last week.

One area he highlighted was that many teams only put the bare minimum of forwards into a ruck, meaning that there are a number of 19-stone missiles lurking in midfield, just waiting to be launched at the opposition.

He is quite right, and it occurs to me that there are plenty of occasions when the spectator would think he was watching a rugby league match, played by 15 instead of 13.

He also opposed tactical substitutions, on the grounds that if forwards had to last the full 80 minutes, they would start losing weight.

Will the law-makers be able to put his common sense views into practice?

(Name and address supplied)

Butterflies
Cards Gifts & Yankee Candles
CHRISTMAS CHARITY EVENT
Sunday 1st November
11am - 4pm
Raising money for
Atal y fro
and
Vale Plus Café No 5
Launch of Christmas Shop Upstairs
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with purchased drinks from Café No5
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A WINDOW TO THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS

For those who live in a conservation area, have a period property or simply prefer the look of traditional windows, timber is no longer the only option.

For many years, foiled UPVC windows were clearly distinguishable from those made of wood. However, thanks to advancements in design and technology there are now products available that offer the appearance of timber with the advantage of being low maintenance.

Created using the hallmarks of traditional joinery, the Heritage range of flush, sash windows are designed with 19th century detailing but made from modern, composite materials.

The authentic appearance of the Heritage range has been created considering Article 4 Conservation regulations to conform to historical design guidelines. Details include traditional putty lines, butt joints and ironmongery.

The foil that helps create the textured appearance of timber is continued throughout the window, including the reveal at the edge of the frame.

To maintain the period appearance it's important to choose the correct colour and finish. The Heritage range comes in a number of classic shades as well as natural finishes including English and Silvered Oak. It's this attention to detail that has helped the Heritage range win the approval of planning officers*.

*Conservation guidelines vary between local authorities, so it is advisable to check for your specific area.

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Black Cat Bonanza

Saturday 24 October 2015

10.30am – 3.30pm

A fun day to celebrate black cats and all things feline!

As well as meeting the lovely cats in our care there will be lots to do including: fancy dress competition for best dressed black human cat (judging to take place at 2pm), bring in your cat themed carved pumpkin - prizes for best one (judging to take place at 2.30 pm), face painting and children's corner in the creepy cavern, soup & rolls, hot dogs, cake stall and refreshments, tombola, raffle, bric-a-brac, books and more!

Admission £1.00 adults, 50p children, 3 & under free

Find us at:
Cats Protection Bridgend Adoption Centre,
Panthirwaun,
Bryncethin,
Bridgend
CF32 9UJ

For further information please contact:

T: 01656 724 396
E: bridgend@cats.org.uk
W: www.bridgend.cats.org.uk
f: cpbridgend

CATS PROTECTION

Thank you

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203644 (England and Wales)
SC037711 (Scotland)

St Andrews Major Golf Club celebrates an excellent year on presentation night

CLUB captain Hilary James welcomed over 50 members and guests to the 2015 presentation evening at the clubhouse on Saturday, October 3, where St Andrews Major golfers received their awards and trophies.

The major club trophy, the President's Cup, was presented to a new member, Roy Harrhy, by the current president, Yvonne Addison.

A special presentation was made to David Clark who, the first hole-in-one on the 11th of the new nine-hole golf course.

The season saw Mike Cockfield (club captain) winning nine titles and Mike Reddi winning six titles.

Karen Bryan was a runner up (or the winner) across the ladies, seniors and mixed groups and a special mention goes to our new member, Jane Gray winning three out of the five Ladies Gold Leaf competition, and finishing runner-up in the ladies gross competition.

Junior champions are 14-year-old Callum Thomas, who won the gross prize, and 13-year-old Ceri Vaughn Jones, who captured the net prize. Both of these talented juniors have showed their potential this year with success at both club and county level.

Some of the Gold Leaf Competition winners: Mens Champion, Mike Cockfield; Mens Nett, Tony Baghurst; Ladies Champion, Morgan Peterson; Ladies nett, Hilary James; Junior Champion, Callum Thomas, Junior Nett, Ceri Vaughan-Jones; Senior Champion, Mike Cockfield; Mixed Pairs Gross, Mike Cockfield and Tanya Olney; Senior Nett, Karren Bryan; Mixed Pairs Nett, Mike Norris andYvonne Addison.

Dave Clark.

Then junior champions with John Hastings.

LOCAL GOLF CLUB OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

FROM LEFT: Andrew Edmunds, club manager at St Andrews Golf Club, pictured with Borg Spiro and Gerard McGrath.

The clubhouse caters for all events - including weddings!

Mike Reddi and Mike Cockfield with Hilary James.

SITUATED in a greenbelt area of the Vale, St Andrews Major Golf Club & Driving Range offers professional catering facilities at its newly- refurbished clubhouse near Barry.

Following the successful transition from 18 to nine holes in December 2014, two local business are now under one roof - Spiro's award-winning caterers providing Sunday Carvery, and specialist services, plus G.F.M as the golf club's in-house caterers for daily bar meals. Weddings, parties and corporate events - we can cater up to 120 guests to suit all budgets - our management team will ensure your big day is a special one!

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'Let there be light in our street' – CALL

The concerned residents with Ross England.

RESIDENTS in Dinas Powys have complained that streetlights in Powys Gardens have not been repaired for over two months.

They contacted Vale MP Alun Cairns and Welsh Assembly Conservative candidate, Ross England, met them to hear their concerns about being "left in the dark".

The group explained that despite their best efforts in pressing the Vale Council, the lights in the street had not been functioning for over nine weeks, with no firm date set for power to be reinstated.

Mr England said: "Having visited, the lack of street lights is dangerous with uneven kerbs on both sides of the street. The narrow cut-through has slippery rotten apples falling from trees onto an unlit path – it is simply an accident waiting to happen. Alun Cairns has written to the authority for urgent answers. I find it very concerning to see the residents being treated so shabbily by the local authority.

"It is completely unacceptable for the Vale Council to ignore an entire street for over two months. They should get their act together and work with Western Power to return light to an area that currently sits in darkness."

The GEM contacted the Vale Council and Western Power, and a spokesman for the council explained that the first report of the fault had been on October 5. A site visit confirmed it was a Western Power matter, and the company had been informed.

A Western Power spokeswoman said: "We attended on October 7 and changed a fuse. The lights came back on.

"However, on the 16th we attended because the lights had gone out again, and this time an underground cable fault was diagnosed."

She added that engineers were expected to be on site Wednesday (yesterday) after The GEM went to press, and said that Western Power expected to have the problem fixed by either Wednesday or Thursday.

Man conducts own survey on demand for supermarket

AS a rule, communities in the Vale do not welcome the arrival of a national supermarket, but a Llantwit Major man has bucked that trend and produced a market survey that he hopes will persuade Sainsbury's to reactivate its interest in the town.

Here at The GEM, we find it easy to predict the reaction whenever a supermarket is proposed.

As a rule, those opposing a new arrival are more motivated than those in favour, so the majority of correspondence will always oppose the plan.

That was the case when Sainsbury's were interested in opening a supermarket and petrol station near Llanmaes.

Vehement opposition came, in particular, from the town council, town centre traders and Llanmaes residents.

At the time, Mr Gordon Wilkie, who lives in Llantwit Major, was prominent in calling for the supermarket to come. He was outnumbered, but put his case with great energy.

In the end, Sainsbury's mothballed the idea, without giving a specific reason, but many observers felt that it was part of the overall cutting back of store openings that several supermarkets were doing.

However, Mr Wilkie has produced his own market survey, delivering questionnaires to around 2,000 homes. He had 500 returned. The GEM was provided with a copy of the questionnaire.

He said that, out of the 500 responses, 430 (86 per cent) did want a national supermarket and petrol station.

A total of 66 (13.2 per cent) did not want one and four (0.8 per cent) were undecided.

Mr Wilkie told The GEM: "Sainsbury's may use this survey as an aid in their decision to submit a planning application for the construction of a supermarket and petrol station in our area.

"I would like to say thank you to all participants for completing the survey which has now been passed onto the agent/supermarket for review."

He said that he believed that Sainsbury's were still interested in opening near Llantwit.

Bake Off in Penarth

THE Penarth Bake Off will be the ultimate baking battle, where passionate baking fans compete to be crowned Penarth's Best Baker.

Over the next few weeks organisers are looking for entrants – whether you are a parent, grandparent, school pupil, business owner, or group/association.

They are aiming to raise money and awareness for Forces Support, for whom local fundraising manager Sian Woodland works, after losing her fiancé Paul.Entry forms are available to download. Apply online at *candidcreative.co.uk/penarthbakeoff*.

NATASJA'S AMAZING WEEK WITH THE USAF

RECENTLY, Barry Air Cadet Natasja Gill spent an amazing week with the United States Air Force, at Ramstein base, Germany.

Natasja's busy week at Ramstein saw her visit the United States Air Force Europe Transport Command looking at a variety of transport aircraft including the C130 Hercules, C17 Globe Master and the C5 Galaxy.

Natasja also had the opportunity to to meet American cadets for a sports evening which was really good fun. Natasja's fitness level was the equivalent of a 2 Star American General.

Natasja also visited a German Air Force base where all the cadets experienced had a ride in a Fox Jeep and Wolf Armoured Personnel Carrier. Furthermore, there was also the opportunity to meet German service personnel who provided a tour of their Tornado Squadron.

This was followed by a low level flyby from the Tornado aircraft.

Natasja said: "I had the most amazing time while I was there and we visited many museums about both World Wars and D-day.

"We stayed in a specific base on the main Ramstein camp, this part was called tent city.

"We would have breakfast and dinner in the mess and throughout the day we would do a multitude of activities such as visiting other US Air bases including Spangdahlem and Kisling where we had an NCO course and a tour of a F-16 Fighter Squadron and of course some shopping as well."

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 12-18 years old (from school year-8).

The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm – 9.30pm near the Memorial Hall), or contact the Squadron on 01446 747734; email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information.

MERGER OF BARRY SCHOOLS PROPOSED

CADOXTON primary and nursery schools could amalgamate next summer – under a Vale Council plan.

On October 19, the council's cabinet decided to consult on proposals for the two neighbouring schools to merge. The council plans to consult parents, staff and pupils on a proposal that would see the schools amalgamated under the leadership of one headteacher and a single governing body.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services and schools, said: "The Cadoxton schools already work together very closely, with many children moving from the nursery school to the primary school when they turn five. Most primary schools in Barry already have a nursery class and simplifying the management structure for these two schools represents a logical step."

The consultation period will run from November 2 to December 14.

Couple wed in Penarth

JADE Wheatley and Benjamin Youde were married on Saturday, October 10 at the Manor House Hotel, in Penarth.

The bride was given away by her father, Stephen Wheatley, and had her sister, Gemma Farmer, as her maid of honour.

The groom's two sisters, Molly and Lois Cameron, were bridesmaids. Ring bearer was Will Wheatley (their son) and pageboys were Jac and Joshua Farmer and Charlie Johnson-Wheatley. The bride and groom are off to Las Vegas on their honeymoon.

DANIEL IS ELECTED AS THE VALE YOUTH MAYOR

Pictured from left: Deputy Leader Coun Stuart Egan, Youth Mayor Daniel Marshall, Deputy Youth Mayor Bronwen Lloyd and Leader of Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore.

DANIEL Marshall, from Cowbridge Comprehensive School, has been elected as the Vale of Glamorgan's Youth Mayor, with Bronwen Lloyd from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg elected as Deputy Youth Mayor.

They were chosen at a meeting of the Vale Youth Forum on Monday (October 19), presided over by the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore.

As part of Local Democracy Week, the elections succeeded in engaging electors, with 3,802 pupils from schools across the Vale casting their votes.

Coun Neil Moore said: "All the candidates had excellent manifestos and presented convincing cases in their election videos. It is clear that they are passionate about representing young people in the Vale and can feel rightly proud of their efforts."

He added: "I would like to congratulate our new Youth Mayor, Daniel Marshall, on his election and Bronwen Lloyd, who becomes Deputy Youth Mayor.

"I would also like to congratulate our other candidate, 13-year-old Rhys Powell from Barry Comprehensive, who will no doubt be a strong contender in next year's election."

Ty Hafan lottery winning numbers

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D901.

- **£2,000:** 413068.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 340436, 813515, 395838, 992497, 643708, 151006, 788150, 379588, 766690, 870617, 346316, 242067, 180896, 743665, 782230, 122749, 479478, 520265, 592192, 889877.
- **£5:** 459928, 869433, 255734, 646350, 959842, 307378, 681869, 681680, 343956, 661542, 975476, 451353, 871102, 674180, 849004, 258441, 421587, 698624, 579032, 784382, 584571, 249843, 187771, 722840, 534403, 816815, 372043, 556531, 172486, 257340, 378965, 205144, 348271, 252450, 443716, 881206, 865703, 323961, 732494, 569932, 618419, 561740, 513919, 764052, 186723, 235923, 581338, 822903, 608117, 751620, 451169, 255550, 139688, 479669, 293388, 465323, 1469, 1700, 1829, 414.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 02920 53 2300.

VISITORS FLOCK TO WORLD WAR 2 HISTORY WEEKEND AT POW CAMP

THE year 2015 is the 70th anniversary of 'The Welsh Great Escape' from the World War Two German prisoner of war camp at Island Farm in Bridgend.

To commemorate this, the Hut 9 Preservation Group staged a special Open Event last weekend when the locked doors of the hut from which this famous escape was made were opened to allow hundreds of visitors a rare look inside this famous building.

Members of the preservation group and over 50 living historians dressed in period uniforms gave talks and guided tours inside the hut, which is usually closed to visitors. A number of World War Two vehicles were also on site.

The group has worked hard over the past year to kit out all the rooms as they would have appeared during the Second World War, and visitors were able to see the extent of these improvements, including the newly-renovated visitors' centre next door.

This building now contains a re-creation of the night that 70 Germans escaped through a tunnel dug from one of the rooms in Hut 9.

A replica guard tower has been constructed, as well as an escape tunnel for families to try out their hands at escaping, and historians were on hand to tell visitors about the history of the site, from its occupation by female workers at the nearby ordnance factory to its housing of hundreds of German prisoners of war.

The group's chairman, Dr Jonathan Hicks, said: "We are always delighted at the high level of interest in the site, and our preservation work, from people of all ages. This open weekend was fully booked up months in advance, and we have only a limited numbers of places remaining for our March 2016 open weekend. We are even taking bookings for our October 2016 event!"

Donations to the Hut 9 voluntary group, which is seeking to assure the future of the site, are welcomed and allow the group to make even more improvements to the building and surrounding area.

To reserve a place on the next Hut 9 tours on March 5 and 6, 2016, email Dr Hicks at bookings@hut9.org.uk. Details of the tours are available via the group's website: www.hut9.org.uk. **JPH**

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

News from the Barrivale Bridge Club

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club for October 13 are as follows:

Joint first, Alan Jones and Sean Macdougall, 58.33 per cent, Mick Green and Ken Hannah, 58.33 per cent; third, Irene Thomas and Jenny Vaughan, 57.08 per cent.

Alan Jones and Sean Macdougall also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join, call 01446 418380; 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or all at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DAVE REED

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01073/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Refurbishment of agricultural barn
Location:/Lleoliad: Glebe Farm, St Hilary
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth St. Hilary

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01132/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed demolition and redevelopment of The Beachcomber, Barry for eight residential flats and associated ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: The Beachcomber, Lakeside, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Barry (Marine)

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01134/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New dwelling and garage at plot adjacent to The Old Bakehouse
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Bakehouse, Greenfield Way, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Llanblethian

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01138/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension to rear of property to create single storey kitchen/diner
Location:/Lleoliad: 30, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01165/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed demolition and redevelopment of The Beachcomber, Barry for eight residential flats and associated ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: The Beachcomber, Lakeside, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Barry (Marine)

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00972/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of existing single storey barn to a Cafe/Deli/Restaurant
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Maen Farm Buildings, Ogmore By Sea
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01037/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replacement of existing first floor conservatory with two storey infill to east side of front elevation. Construction of matching infill on west side of front elevation
Location:/Lleoliad: Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01154/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Remedial masonry work to front and side elevations
Location:/Lleoliad: Natwest, 2, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01164/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed alterations to existing house and outbuildings
Location:/Lleoliad: Keeperes Cottage, Lower Porthkerry, Porthkerry Road, Rhoose
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01139/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Application for a new carbon zero four bedroom detached bungalow
Location:/Lleoliad: The Walled Garden, Lane to Wenvoe Castle Golf Course, Wenvoe
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting former Walled Kitchen garden wall at Wenvoe Castle – W Range, Grade II and former Coach House and Stables, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01093/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a rural enterprise dwelling along with associated equestrian buildings and landscaping utilising the existing vehicle access to the site
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at North East of St. Hilary

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01129/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 12 dwellings and associated infrastructure
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at The Rectory, Wenvoe

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01131/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed removal of fill material, importation of inert wastes with the progressive restoration of the former mineral working areas associated with the former Ely Brickworks
Location:/Lleoliad: Photovoltaic Installation, Cwrt Yr Ala Road, Caerau, Cardiff (former Ely Brickworks)

May affect a Public Right of Way Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01129/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 12 dwellings and associated infrastructure
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at The Rectory, Wenvoe

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/01139/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Application for a new carbon zero four bedroom detached bungalow
Location:/Lleoliad: The Walled Garden, Lane to Wenvoe Castle Golf Course, Wenvoe

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8
Proposed development at Land at Sycamore Cross, Pendoylan Lane and North of A48, Bonvilston.

I give notice that Bonvilston Vale Limited & Village Homes LLP is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Development of 120 homes including affordable homes, new vehicle, pedestrian and cycle access, improvement works to Pendoylan Lane, regrading of site, drainage, landscape works, provision of public open space, demolition of existing modern timber stables and all associated works.
The proposal has been submitted with an AMENDED environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement Addendum at a charge of £4.50 via cheque made payable to Barton Willmore LLP from Barton Willmore LLP, Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff. CF10 3AL so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:
- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 12 November, 2015.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 12 November 2015 quoting reference 2015/00960/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8
Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at Sycamore Cross, Pendoylan Lane and North of A48, Bonvilston

Hysbysir trwy hyn Bonvilston Vale Limited & Village Homes LLP n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Development of 120 homes including affordable homes, new vehicle, pedestrian and cycle access, improvement works to Pendoylan Lane, regrading of site, drainage, landscape works, provision of public open space, demolition of existing modern timber stables and all associated works

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol DIWYGIEDIG sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad Adendwm am £4.50 via cheque made payable to Barton Willmore LLP from Barton Willmore LLP, Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff. CF10 3AL tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:
- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 12 November, 2015.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 12 November 2015 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2015/00960/FUL.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 22 October, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager, Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

When the WRU threatened to ban five Welsh legends

IN his autobiography published this week, legendary Wales and British Lions winger, JJ Williams, tells how the WRU tried to ban him – twice!

The first occasion was for daring to admit publicly that he was considering a world record offer from a rugby league club. The second was over an alleged illegal payment of expenses from a charity match, which also involved four other players, resulting in the Welsh selectors threatening to drop half their team before an England match unless they repaid the money.

"This story has never been told, until now," says Bridgend-based JJ; "I know it to be true because I was one of the five and of all the ludicrous examples of alleged breaches of the amateur regulations, this was the most ludicrous one of all."

In February 1975, before the team were due to play against England at Arms Park, five members of the Wales team – Gareth Edwards, Phil Bennett, Mervyn Davies, Bobby Windsor and JJ himself, were told they could not participate in the game as all five had been accused of taking money for the charity match in Newport.

"None of us could believe what we were hearing," adds JJ.

***JJ Williams – The Life and Times of a Rugby Legend** is on sale from October 19 (£14.99, Y Lolfa).*

Another successful year for bridge club

SULLY Bridge Club, have celebrated another very successful year – their membership has increased to 120 fully paid up members, and the afternoon bridge sessions are more than well supported.

On Wednesday, Peter Millar and Trish Tracy (*above*), were presented with the Peter Cross Bowl as winners of the ladder tournament.

The Claret Jug, along with a cheque for £20 from the WBU, was presented to Lilian and David Hopkins (*below*) as the most improved couple over the year.

EK

St Cyres pupils take up world challenge in China

Hearing resource base pupils with Clare Gardner.

Eyes set on the top universities.

World Challenge.

A GROUP of pupils from St Cyres School recently spent four weeks in China, taking part in a World Challenge Expedition from Chengdu to Beijing.

The group travelled to the town of Emei Shan to complete a three day acclimatisation trek up to the 3,099m summit of one of the four sacred Buddhist mountains in China.

Kanding in the valley of the Tibetan Plateau, at approximately 2,500m, was the gateway town to the group's main seven-day Minya Gongga trek up to an altitude of 4,800m.

They returend to Chengdu to visit the Panda sanctuary, one of the highlights for the group who were lucky enough to see baby pandas in the breeding area.

The next phase was a day in a primary school teaching English to young children and then onto a project at an eco farm.

Two long overnight train journeys followed, first to Xi'an to visit the beautiful and iconic Terracotta Warriors, the eighth wonder of the ancient world. The group also spent time in the backstreets of the Muslim market quarter.

The group stayed in one of the authentic Beijing 'houtongs', an area of extensive alleyways formed by lines of courtyard properties, small shops, tea houses and small eateries. Before flying home the group visited a section of the ancient Great Wall.

Geography fieldwork

YEAR-13 geography students carried out fieldwork on Contrasts in Deprivation in a number of areas of Cardiff recently. Pupils compared housing quality and the physical environment by carrying out a range of primary research.

They visited the most expensive road in Cardiff in the suburbs of Cyncoed. They contrasted this area with another suburban area, Ely and then an inner city area of Cardiff, Splott. They ended the day in the semi-rural location of Michaleston-Le-Pit to compare rural deprivation with the urban areas they had visited earlier in the day. A very enjoyable day was had by all!

Year-12 geography students have recently returned from a residential fieldtrip to Gower and Swansea.

PiXL Event

PUPILS from both year-10 and year-11 took part in a PiXL event in the Celtic Manor resort in Newport. The pupils were given a comprehensive guide into how to apply for the top universities in the UK, including the prestigious Russell Group universities.

There were very inspiring talks from tutors at both Oxbridge and Kings College London, which gave an insight into what the top universities require from students. Our pupils can perhaps be inspired by the success of St Cyres student, Ewan Salter, who was recently accepted at Cambridge University. The pupils were also given strategies on how to succeed in their GCSE and AS Level examinations. A very good afternoon was had by all pupils and staff in the beautiful grounds of the Celtic Manor Golf course.

Ronak's Nuffield placement

RONAK SHAH was one of 75 students who took part in a Nuffield placement over the summer holiday. Over 330 students applied for a placement so this was very prestigious.

Ronak is pictured explaining to Nobel Prize Laureate Sir Martin Evans his research into how cancerous cells can cross the blood brain barrier at the Nuffield Awards Evening.

Ronak's research involved using a variety of techniques including Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to amplify DNA samples. This is the same technique used at crime scenes to create genetic fingerprints.

Ronak's research will help us to understand why some cancers are more likely to spread into the brain when they metastasise. Ronak has written an in-depth report explaining the techniques that he used and the conclusions that he drew from his results.

Current year-12 science students are encouraged to apply for a Nuffield bursary through the Techniquest website.

Music in the HRB

PUPILS from the Hearing Resource Base were delighted to receive a generous donation from the proceeds raised at the Penarth Community Spring celebration organised by singing teacher Clare Gardner.

The money will be used to buy additional percussion instruments for use by pupils with hearing loss in music lessons and to fund a workshop to develop their performance skills. We already have some talented musicians amongst our HRB pupils who benefit from the outstanding expertise and support of the school music department and we are looking forward to this exciting new opportunity.

SPORTS NEWS

THE St Cyres year-7 and 8 girls travelled to Eastern High School to play in the Cardiff Cup.

Their opponents appeared much bigger and stronger but the St Cyres girls held their own for much of the game. Amy Buckler was outstanding in goal, making several great saves. Ella Hilliard and Lucia Davies began to link well in attack creating a breakaway goal and then Ella scored an absolute 'screamer' from well outside the area.

By half time the score was 5-2 to Eastern High. This score remained with some much improved defensive play from Cerys Leigh, Bethan Havard and Millie Purchase-Smith. Farah Abdo and Nia Manley began to support the attack but St Cyres could not get the all-important goals.

Girl of the Match was awarded to Ella, but Amy also played a vital role in goal. Well done to all the girls involved.

A team made up of girls form year-7 through to year-10 recently played their first home match on our new full-size 3G pitch. An amazing performance saw St Cyres victorious, beating Fitzalan High School 5-1. Well done girls!

Congratulations, Bethan!

BETHAN Havard has been selected for the Welsh under-14 squad in basketball and the county under-14 hockey team.

Boys football

FOOTBALL on our brand new full size 3G pitch kicked off this month.

On consecutive evenings, we saw a victory for the year-11 boys against St Iltyd's, followed by a comfortable 4-1 win for the year-8 team. Although the year-10 team lost to Barry Boys the following evening it was a good week for St Cyres football overall, with two teams now progressing to the next round of the Welsh Cup.

A Song for Christmas

PRIMARY schools from Penarth and the surrounding areas are already getting into the festive spirit as they are taking part in St Cyres School's 'A Song for Christmas' music video project.

Llandough, Cogan, Dinas Powys, Fairfield, St Andrews Major and Evenlode Primary schools have all been set the task to learn the well known Christmas hit, Mariah Carey's *All I Want for Christmas is You*.

Project co-ordinator and St Cyres music teacher Mr Richard Hopkin will film all of the different schools singing separately and then edit the footage together to create one Christmas music video. Filming and production starts in November ready to be published on St Cyres School's YouTube channel (SCTV) in time for Christmas.

Mr Hopkin said: "Christmas is a time for joining together and this video will definitely bring joy to the community. We did this in 2013 and it was very successful, the pupils involved shared it with friends and family through social media and it was viewed thousands of times all around the world."

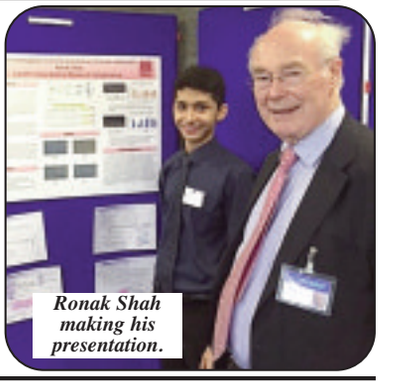
The video is planned to be uploaded to YouTube on December 1.

To see St Cyres' 2013 video, visit YouTube and search 'St Cyres A Song for Christmas 2013'.

ROBOTICS CLUB

THIS week the ICT and Computer Science Department saw the first of a 16-week after-school robotics club run by Technocamps.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning how to use computer science to program robots around obstacle courses. They also became very competitive when trying to make their robots the best (and coolest) with some even demonstrating some excellent dance moves. I'm sure amongst the group we have some of the computer scientists of the future.



Ronak Shah making his presentation.

Seaview Lads results

FISHING has been mixed recently, but all too often the catches haven't been sufficiently good to reward the efforts of anglers.

This hasn't been solely a Seaview lads problem; the weekend's shore team events that are fished by some of the finest south Wales anglers also saw poor returns in spite of many keen anglers' best efforts.

Age and experience has been a key factor in Septembers competetions with pensioners demonstrating the importance of experience and wisdom over simple brute force and athleticism.

An exception to this must be noted with Gary Mitchell demonstrating athletic prowess that belied his years to win outright our recent coach trip competition held at Tenby and then take a notable fifth place on home territory. A trip to the Gower after the elusive golden grey mullet saw some fish landed but our chair Steven Doble was yet again the bridesmaid, foiled again when his first ever Golden Grey spat the hook upon sight of him - better luck next time Bobo.

On this trip it was good to be able cut our carbon footprint with anglers sharing two hire vans from the boys at CS rather than have to take a dozen cars.

Is this a sign of the times - what with the club taking this green stance, hot on the heels of our going metric, whatever next?!

Late September saw plenty of undersized fish caught but only two fish landed that could be counted. Tony Gwyther landed an eel of 1.3kg to win overall while Kersy landed a 150g silver eel to take second and a sixth place in the shore league team event fished at the same time.

October has seen some better catches and most notably two of our members have excelled in major competitions with Gary Morgan taking the honours in the latest CIU event and Paul Crooke winning the Seamasters- well done chaps!

On a less upbeat note, our thoughts are with Ken after his recent loss – we're all thinking of you.

RESULTS

October - 1st G Morgan 2.440 kg, 2nd M Langford 0.715 kg, 3rd G Mitchell .0.590kg, 4th J Jones, 5th AB Peterson, 6th A Harris.

September 13 (20 fished) - 1st D Cook 1.700 kg, 2nd G Spiteri 1.500 kg, 3rd R Lougher 1.35 kg, 4th P Roderick 1.200 kg, 5th G Mitchell 1.000 kg, 6th M Langford 0.920 kg.

September 13 - 1st Tony Gwyther 1.38kg, 2nd Mike Kerslake 0.150kg. **JC**

Ploughing tournament circuit offers keen competition and keeps rural skills alive

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

A POPULAR feature of life in the Vale is the 'circuit' of competitions that celebrate farming skills.

Ploughing and hedging events are keenly contested, with competitors coming from outside Wales.

The various young farmers' clubs also put on a range of events that keep rural traditions alive.

GEM photographer Glyn Evans was out and about recently at a ploughing ompetition, and took these pictures of the day.

VALE ROLLER SKATERS COMPETE IN ANDOVER

THE competition team from Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club recently travelled to Andover to take part in the last event of their competitive year.

It has been a jam-packed year for the skaters and their coaches were pleased that they ended it on a high note with all the skaters performing extremely well.

Evie Denbury, Catrin Parry Griffiths and Mollie Griffith all competed in the newcomers event, as well as in various team events.

Nareece Iqbal, Phoebe Escott, Charleigh Griffith, Ewan Maxwell, Erin Maxwell, Bethan Daly, Maya Archampong, Michael Vaughan, Kaitlin Daly and Lara Goodwin all took part in solo and team events and the club took home one first place, two bronze medals and a silver.

The skaters are now training hard for their medal tests in November and hope that next year will see the club continue to grow.

If anybody would like more information about the club please see its Facebook page.

AG

Cowbridge junior rugby round-up

COWBRIDGE under-12s crashed out of the Blues Cup despite dominating large parts of this cup match at Merthyr.

Cowbridge started well, competing with the bigger Merthyr side and gaining plenty of possession. However, the visitors must have been disappointed with Merthyr's opening try, as four or five tackles were missed as the home side ran from their own half to score in the corner. The try was converted to put Merthyr into a 7-0 lead.

Cowbridge bounced back by applying some pressure inside the Merthyr half, but a mistake led to another home score. With Cowbridge on the attack in their opponents' half, the ball was dropped in midfield and Merthyr picked up the loose ball to run in another long range converted try.

Cowbridge continued to apply pressure and from a scrum inside their opponents' 22, outside half Harry Treharne made a scything break to score to the right of the posts. Cowbridge were unable to add the conversion.

Despite long periods of pressure in the first half, five points was scant reward for the visitors as Merthyr led 14-5 at the break.

The second half proved to be an exciting affair as attacking play moved from one half to the other.

Merthyr were the first to strike as possession from a lineout was driven over from close range to extend the lead to 19-5.

Cowbridge continued to press and, after a series of attacks, it was prop Alfie Rees who showed real determination to crash over from close range, with Treharne converting.

Merthyr then missed a glorious chance to score as a stumble close to the line prevented them registering their fourth try.

Within a score, the Cowbridge support were on their feet as outside half Treharne came away from a maul inside his own half on a sprint to the line that would have levelled the scores.

The Cowbridge skipper looked odds on to score, only for a magnificent covering tackle to haul him down just short of the try line. Cowbridge's chance had gone and Merthyr held out in the closing minutes to record a 19-12 victory to progress to the next round.

Cowbridge will be disappointed with this loss as they generated the better scoring chances and will be disappointed at giving away two soft tries through unforced errors.

Squad: Ethan Francis, Harry Treharne, Rhys Ford, Finlay Ball, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Robbie Brown, Rhys Pritchard, Alfie Rees, Tom Brennan, Akka Guwy, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, James Jones, Lewys Robins, Aron Kempson, Ifor Rees, Steffan Evans, Finlay Brace, Will Harris and Sebastian Johns-Powell.

MF

After recent successes, the Cowbridge under-10 squad travelled to Llantwit Fardre this week.

Despite our best efforts, we have never managed to beat them since the squad started rugby at under-7s and like us, they were unbeaten so far this season, so both clubs had it all to play for on a chilly and overcast morning.

Both clubs split their squads – Cowbridge into the Antelopes and the Bears and it was the Bears who took to the field first against their opposite numbers.

Cowbridge started quickly and L Thomas burst through the defence line with one of his trademark strong runs to open the scoring.

We then missed a few tackles and allowed them to reply with a try of their own. Ollie Gale hit back to regain the lead. Llantwit were consistently quicker in the ruck and after another turnover, they levelled the scores.

Then it was all Cowbridge, with firstly a try for Josh Canning and two for Joe Funtek, the first a lovely run breaking through numerous tackles and touching down in the corner. Final score 5-2.

The Antelopes took to the field to play their game and tensions were high as the two unbeaten teams came face to face.

The match didn't disappoint with neither giving an inch. The boys from both teams put their bodies on the line with some immense tackles and rucking.

Llantwit really piled on the pressure and slowly pushed us back, pinning us in our own 22 for most of the second quarter, but the boys copied the exploits of the Welsh team from the day before and refused to let Llantwit through.

The second half started in the same fashion but with Cowbridge in the ascendancy. camping out in the Llantwit 22.

With less than five minutes remaining, the ball came out of a scrum to Harry New, who dashed down the blindside, just managing to elude the desperate Llantwit defence to score in the corner.

The boys then held out for the final few tense minutes for a well-deserved 1-0 win.

Both clubs will be looking forward to the rematch at home later in the season.

AL

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for October 19:

1st Steve Burgoyne and John Evans 63.26 per cent, 2nd Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 62.88, 3rd Tony Disley and Phil Felman 61.36.

LE

Flanders Meadow, Llantwit Major
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Chris Davies

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Partridge Road, St Athan
2 Bedrooms Kitchen/Diner GCH Combi
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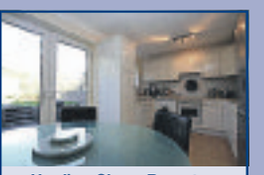
Beggars Pound, St Athan
4 Bedrooms 198' Terraced Garden Period Home
£315,000 F36



Harding Close, Boverton
3 Bedrooms Kitchen/Diner Garage
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Byron Court, Llantwit Major
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Ham Lane South, Llantwit Major
3 Beds. 2 Recps. GCH Combi Driveway. Garage.
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Barene, Windmill Lane
3 Beds. Annex. 2 Recps. Conservatory. GCH. UPVC. Triple Garage. 50' Driveway.

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Court Close, Llantwit Major
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Stag Lane, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms West End Location Off Road Parking
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River Walk, Llantwit Major
3 Beds. 2 Recps. Detached Garage. Potential to Extend.
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Boverton Road
4 Bedrooms 2 Receptions Detached Garage
£530,000 E55

Higher End, St Athan
4 Bedrooms Conservatory 90' Garden. Garage
£249,950 D57

The Square, St Athan
4 Bedrooms Village Location Superb Character
£265,000 D55

Cwrt Y Cadno, Llantwit Major
3 Beds. 2 Recps Unique Corner Plot Potential to Extend
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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £162,500

Modern Three Bedroom End of Link House comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Allocated Parking Space. Low maintenance garden to front and enclosed rear garden. Ref 809D.

BOVERTON - OFFERS OVER £300,000

Exceptionally well presented 18th century cottage with three bedrooms comprises Hall, Sitting Room, Central Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Two Bathrooms, Conservatory, Detached Garage. Natural timbers. Gas central heating. Georgian glazed windows. Mature gardens with southerly and westerly aspect. Ref 816D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR £189,950

Modern three bedroom detached house with integral garage comprising Reception Hall, Cloakroom/WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Garden to front paved for parking. Enclosed rear Garden. Ref 817D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £190,000

Modern detached two bedroom bungalow with integral garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bathroom/WC. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway for parking. Open plan garden to front and neatly laid rear garden. No chain. Ref 825D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £175,000

Modern well presented Georgian style three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and off road parking. Neatly laid garden. Ref 832D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR £179,500

Modern well presented three bedroom Georgian style house and Garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Re-fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Good size low maintenance gardens to front, side and rear. Ref 833D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £210,000

Stone built two bedroom terraced cottage situated in a sought after area comprising Hallway, Living Room/Dining area, Inner Hall, Utility area, Wet Room/Shower room. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Terrace garden to front. Vegetable plot adjacent. Timber framed garage to the rear with access. Ref 834D.

ST ATHAN £157,500

Modern well maintained three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern fitted Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors for the most part. Driveway and open plan garden to front and neatly laid rear garden. Viewing recommended. Ref 837D.

LLANMAES £220,000

Traditional three bedroom double fronted semi detached house situated in a sought after area comprising Hallway, Living Room, Dining Room, Utility Room, Store Room and Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Large gardens to front and garden to rear. Vacant possession. Freehold. Ref 838D.

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- Situated in the heart of Colwinston
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EPC = D **£475,000**

Brynhyfryd Colwinston

- Situated in the sought after village of Colwinston
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EPC = C **£539,950**

The Glens Talbot Green

- Individual detached house set in its own gardens
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EPC = C **£550,000**

Flemingston Grange Flemingston

- Substantial period detached house
- 5/6 double bedrooms
- 4 en suite
- Set in its own gardens of about 1 acre
- Sun room with south facing aspect over courtyard

EPC = D **£650,000**

The Granary Llancarfan

- Superbly presented barn conversion
- Beautiful views onto Llancarfen
- High quality finish throughout
- 4 bedrooms
- 2 en suite
- Secure parking with gated access

EPC = F **£695,000**

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A gold-rush for the Barry Beavers swimming club!

BARRY Beavers travelled to the Rhondda on Saturday, October 10 where 27 swimmers took part against seven other Welsh clubs, winning three gold, eight silver and two bronzes.

Gold medallists were: Talisha Rogers, girls 50metres, and Ffion Jones, girls 100metres, and Nicky Cushen, men's 100metres.

Silver medallists were: Natasha Lynch, girls 25metres, Jack Finch, boys 25metres, Shannon Rogers, ladies 25metres, Philip Daly, men's 25metres, Courtney Rogers, girls 50metres, Heidi Boswell, ladies 50metres, Layla Rogers, ladies 100metres and the junior relay team, Jack Kemp, Tyler Savory, Courtney Rogers, and Abigail Finch.

Bronze medallists were: Lucy Lynch, girls 50metres, Helen Lynch, ladies 50metres.

Barry came first overall, taking the Rhondda Polar Bear Trophy which is a very rare thing to happen. Well done to all the swimmers.

The other swimmers to take part were: Keira Richards, Callum Savory, Joanna Davies, Suzanne Haslam, Louis Davies, Heather Williams, Matthew Lack, Kyle Siirak, Mark Eveleigh, Sarah Davies, Sophie Woodham, Robert Lynch. All these swimmers have improved their times.

I would also like to thank our supporters who came up with us on the bus. Also our patron, Coun Howard Hamilton,

Unfortunately Carol was unable to attend, but we wish her a speedy recovery.

Also at the Rhondda, the final league swim of the year was held and Barry came second overall. **PF**

SUCCESS FOR NIGEL IN SOUTH WALES EVENT

THIS week saw the South Wales Autumn Chess Congress.

Pride of place for Barry Chess Club must go to Nigel Ralphs. In the first round he took a half point bye, and round two saw a win for Nigel, as did rounds three and four.

In the final round Nigel was black against FM Walter Braun, who was leading the tournament with wins from all four of his games. If there was to be a winner in this game he would be the champion. I am pleased to report that Nigel defeated Walter and holds the S Wales Autumn Congress title for 2015.

He was joined in the major section of the tournament by Sam Jukes and Stephen Bonutto. Sam finished with two wins from his five games. This placed him in joint 19th place out of 30 entrants. This was exactly where he was seeded to finish and he ended the tournament without gaining or losing any ratings points.

Stephen only played three matches, so finished bottom of the table, which is where his rating suggested he should finish.

There were two games in the league for Barry as both of our division one teams played. The unbeaten Bosons travelled to Bridgend Central to play the also unbeaten Rockets so something had to give. The Camelots travelled to Cardiff to take on the Bishops.

The Bosons team was not the strongest we have been able to put out but dropped the Rockets like a spent cartridge. With draws on the top three boards and wins for Dave Parsons and Ken Hannah on the bottom boards, we returned home with a 3.5 to 1.5 victory. We remain the only team on 100 per cent win ratio but currently sit behind the Caerphilly Kings, as they won their game by 4.5 to 0.5.

The Camelots were not only outranked on all boards but the lowest-ranked Cardiff player was rated 150 points above our top board. Could we maintain our record of not being whitewashed?

Yes we could, as an excellent win for Sam Jukes meant we lost by 4 to 1. However, as the Cardiff Monarchs also had a big win, the Camelots are now ensconced in a relegation fight.

In view of the low rankings of our teams, it seems likely that the Camelots and the Quarks in division three will do well to keep the fight going to avoid relegation until the final games of the season.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

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Public Notice

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ADDENDUM RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 2015/00960 AT LAND AT SYCAMORE CROSS, PENDOYLAN LANE AND NORTH OF A48, BONVILSTON

Bonvilston Vale Limited & Village Homes LLP have submitted further information to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Planning Department, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT relating to planning application ref: 2015/00960 for "Development of 120 homes including affordable homes, new vehicle, pedestrian and cycle access, improvement works to Pendoylan Lane, regrading of site, drainage, landscape works, provision of public open space, demolition of existing modern timber stables and all associated works" at Land at Sycamore Cross, Pendoylan Lane and North of A48, Bonvilston.

The application was submitted to the Local Planning Authority on 16th August 2015. The applicant has now submitted additional ecology information in relation to the Environmental Statement already submitted. A copy of the Environmental Statement Addendum may be inspected by members of the public during normal working hours at Vale of Glamorgan Council, Planning Department, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT until 12th November 2015. Printed copies of the Environmental Statement Addendum may be obtained whilst stocks last at Barton Willmore, Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff, CF10 3AL at a cost of £4.50 via a cheque made payable to Barton Willmore LLP.

Members of the public can comment on Environmental Statement Addendum by writing to the Council at Vale of Glamorgan Council, Planning Department, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT.

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LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENSE

An application if respect of The Federation Bar 26 Commercial Street, Maesteg, CF34 9DH has been made to the Bridgend County Borough Council.

Proposed Variation of Licensable Activities:
Sale of Alcohol: Sunday to Monday inclusive 09.00am - 01.00am.
Provision of Regulated Entertainment: Sunday to Monday inclusive 09.00am - 01.00am.
Opening Hours of Premises: Sunday to Monday inclusive 09.00am - 01.30am.

On Bank and Statutory holidays and on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve the sale of alcohol and the provision of regulated entertainment shall cease at 02.00am and the premises shall close at 02.30am.
The application can be viewed in the Licensing Public register by arrangement with the licensing team at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB telephone 01656 643294.

Anyone wishing to object to this application should do so, in writing by 11th November 2015 to Licensing Bridgend County Borough Council Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false stement in connection with an application to which a maximum fine of £5000 is liable on summary conviction.

Applicant:
Rhymney Brewery Limited, Lamb & Co, 454 Altair House, Falcon Drive, Cardiff, CF10 4RH.
Agents for the Applicant dated 14th October 2015.

Thank You

THANK YOU

Floss & Jamie Ball

for our darling great granddaughter

ISABELLE

Born on 13th October 2015.
6lbs 15oz

Love to you all, Nan and Gramps (Grandma & Grampy to baby Isabelle)xxx

Family Notices

THURLBERT
Allen

Peacefully on October 13th at Llandough Hospital – Allen, well known for his time as a painter and decorator.

Much loved Dad to Amanda, loving brother of June, Peter and Clive. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Allen is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road where floral tributes may be sent. Service to take place at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry until on Tuesday 27th October at 11am. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

GILL
Derek

Suddenly after a short illness on Monday, October 12. Cherished husband of Iris, wonderful father of Deborah and Paul, much loved grandfather of Caitlin, Keir, Joe and Alex.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service in the chapel on Friday, October 30 at 3pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 4pm. Immediate family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service for Cystic Fibrosis Research.

JONES
Dilys Evelyn

Peacefully on 13th October, Dilys, aged 58 years, much loved partner of Paul, beloved Mam of Kurt and Trina, devoted Nanny to Abbimae and Eryn. Dilys will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A G Adams & Son until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Friday, 30th October at 1pm. By family request please wear casual attire. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired for Marie Curie c/o the Funeral Director.

TURNER
Philip (Taffy)

Suddenly on October 11 at home, Philip of Holton Road, Barry. Beloved husband of Yvonne, a loving father, dear father-in-law and much loved grandad of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral Thursday, October 29, service and cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm, where friends please meet. Family flowers only. *Enquiries to WH Preene & Son, Main Street, Cadoxton. Tel: 01446 420520.*

OVERY
Doreen Olive

Passed away peacefully on October 10 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, aged 82 years. Devoted wife of the late John, much loved mum of Paul, Carole, Karen, Susan, Julie and David. Sister of David, special nan, great nanny and friend.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday October 29, service 1.45pm at The Gathering Place, St Athan, followed by private cremation. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations in lieu, if desired, to Asthma UK c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

DOBLE
Jean Margaret *(née Lewis)*

At home on October 16, at peace in her heartbroken daughter's arms. Jean, wife of the late Chris and adored mum to Emma. Respected father-in-law of Martin, devoted and cherished nanny of Oliver and Ruby–Jean. Much loved auntie to Tracey and Adrian.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Jean is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service until her service at All Saints Church, Barry on Thursday, October 29 at 2.45pm, followed by Cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be handed to the Funeral Director at the service, or alternatively via Jean's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth.

"Life Is Not Forever, Love Is"

PYCROFT
Richard George (Ritchie)

Peacefully on October 9th at Llandough Hospital, Ritchie, well known for his time as a docker in Barry and former Captain, Chairman and President of Cadoxton Bowls Club. Devoted husband to the late Barbara, much loved dad of Raymond and Bryan. Loving father-in-law to Kay.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Ritchie is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at their Windsor Road chapel, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Monday, October 26 at 2pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

HILL
Vera Kathleen

Peacefully on October 17, dearly loved wife of Syd and a wonderful mother, nanny and great nan.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the funeral service on Tuesday, October 27 in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Alzheimer's Society c/o the funeral home (cheques only please).

WILLIAMS
Ronald Hugh

The family are sad to announce the passing of Ronald (Fatty Williams), aged 77 years at Llandough Hospital on October 16, surrounded by his wife and family.

He will be greatly missed by his loving wife Win, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Ron is resting at The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at St Cadocs, Old Village Church, Cadoxton on Friday, October 30 at 1pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations may be made at the service or via Ron's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support Marie Curie and the Alzheimer's Society.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

WALSH
Dilys Freda *(née Harry)*

On October 13 at Holme Tower, Penarth, after an illness courageously borne and surrounded by her family, Dilys of Rhoose, dearly loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, October 28, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

CORP
Brian Jeffrey

Peacefully on October 19, Brian, aged 81 years, beloved husband of the late Mo, wonderful dad to Ann and Nigel, also a doting grandad of Lili.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at Barry Spiritualist Church, Buttrills Road on Monday, November 2 at 11am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. Family flowers only.

Birthday Memories

O'CONNOR
Alesha

'When someone you love becomes a memory, That memory, becomes a treasure. Our world is just not the same without you.'

We love and miss you so much.

Happy 18th today Leshy - Lou Lou
Love Jo, Dave & Iestyn xxx

Birthdays

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Mum, Dad, Shauna
& all the family
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GEORGIA

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News, Sport, Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....

Depressing defeat for the Farmers

THE annual four ball, better ball match involving 20 members of the Glamorgan Farmers Golf Society against the Monmouthshire Farmers Golf Society, was held rcently at St Pierre Golf Club.

Now in its 26th year of competition, this year's event took on added significance with both teams having recorded 12 wins each with one match halved since the first fixture was played in 1991.

Playing for one point on both the front and back nine and one point for the overall result of each match the Glamorgan team made a disastrous start with President Geraint Davies playing with fellow Southerndown member Julian Golunski suffering a heavy 3-0 defeat to Peter Harris and Charlie Park.

In the next match in form Chris Watson partnered with David Williams could only gain half a point in their match against Ken Davies and Martin Richardson.

Gareth Perkins and Jim Hayes failed to get anything from their match against John Davies and Mike Williams allowing the Monmouthshire team to build a commanding lead.

The father and son combination of Tim and Dan Jarvis gave renewed hope for Glamorgan when they returned with two points against Gwyn Jones and Gary French with another two points gained by Clive Thomas and Tony McCarthy in their close match against Trevor Baker and John Duthie.

Hopes were raised even further when society captain Brian Jones and John Davies scored a maximum three points against Mike Daniel.

Bill Thomson followed soon after with another three points for Clive and Martyn Edwards, who easily won their match against Tom James and Gwyn Thomas.

Unfortunately for the visiting team, the following two matches secured just two points, as Trevor Wooding and Aubrey Thomas gained just one point in their match against John Morgan and Nick Hill and Glyn Watts-Jones, and Chris Rooney also returned with one point against Martin Ley and Tom Price.

With the final match still out on the course the Glamorgan team were looking to Godfrey Lewis, partnered with Martyn David, to return with maximum points in their match against Jonathan Davies and Malcolm Francis.

This proved too big a task, with the Monmouthshire pairing taking all three points to leave a final score of 12.5 points to Glamorgan against the Monmouthshire score of 17.5.

Nearest the pin competition on the par three holes were Tom Price, Jonathan Davis, John Morgan and Dan Jarvis.

Glamorgan members are now focusing on the next society meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 29, at the Monmouth Golf Club, sponsored by NFU Mutual agents Kelly, Harris and Conlon.

T.McC

Anti-ash group's fighting fund for legal challenge

PLANS to bring Cardiff's incinerator ash to the east end of the dock, to extract metals and produce aggregate, are being legally challenged.

Documents were lodged last Friday, to challenge the Vale Council's approval.

Environmental lawyers Richard Buxton are taking legal action on behalf of the Docks Incinerator Action Group (DIAG).

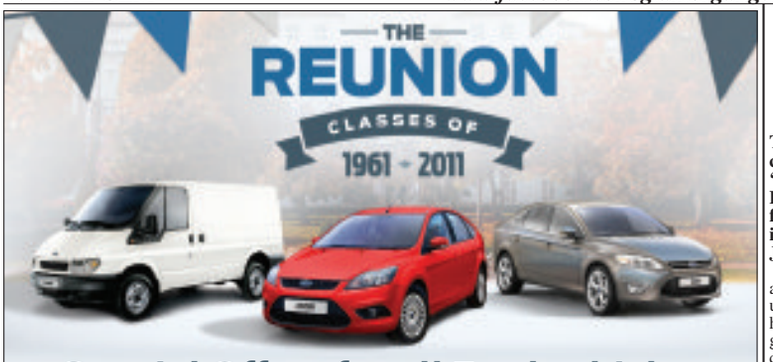
They have secured legal aid, on condition that the community collects funds to launch it.

Shirley Taylor, a Docks Incinerator Action Group activist spokesperson, said: "I'm working to raise funds for this appeal, and I hope the people will join us.

"DIAG will be setting up a 'fighting fund'. I have set up a petition on 38 Degrees. People can also view 'Stop the Barry Town Incinerator', on Facebook."

The DIAG Group will be meeting on Monday, October 26 at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, to organise fundraising and publicity.

They are hoping local people will offer their skills and support.



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Dinas Powys defeat St Josephs in the Plate

THIS SWALEC Plate contest provided the 'Villagers' of Dinas Powys with opposition from a higher division in the form of St Josephs from Cardiff.

Coach John Dunleavy and his team were in the unusual situation of having lost their last two games and a tough contest was anticipated against a team that had won their last three matches.

The breeze blowing along the Common from the village towards St Andrews was at the back of the visitors in the first half and this was a factor in outside half Ben White failing with an early long range penalty kick at goal.

The home side enjoyed the best of the early exchanges and powerful runs by flanker Lewys Dunleavy and right wing Mark Goode cheered the home crowd.

The visitors showed their quality by gathering a poor kick through and with smooth passing ran from their own tryline to score a stunning try.

They soon extended their lead, as they crossed for a second try after 20 minutes, following a prepared move from the base of a scrum.

The quality of the visitors was obvious as their threequarters had conjured two stunning tries, to lead by 12 points with an hour of the game remaining.

The home team were stung into action as captain Huw Thomas led his charges by example and a frantic period of play ensued with centres Bryn Evans and John Morris to the fore during this phase of the contest.

The St Josephs' defence was robust and it was nearing half-time before the 'Villagers' finally opened their account, as outstanding full back Sam Middlemiss gathered a clearance kick in his own half and went on a mesmerising 40 metre run before passing to scrum half Nathan Williams, who crossed in the corner.

The home side added to their score on the stroke of half time as White converted a long range penalty kick to make it 8-12.

The second half was largely dominated by the 'Villagers', to such an extent that the visitors failed to score during this period.

The home side ran in two second half tries, both the result of stunning interplay between forwards and backs.

Replacement scrum half Tom Davies crossed for the first following another stunning break by Middlemiss, carried on by the energetic flanker Ryan Shallish before transferring to Davies.

The lead was extended by a further penalty from White, and victory was secured in the final minute of the game as right wing Rhys Evans maintained his try a game ratio and crossed in the corner to round off a stunning team try. Final score 21-12.

The 'Villagers' return to league action with a tricky away game at Pontyclun.

HJ

Bowlers impress

SULLY Indoor Bowls Championship side played their first home game of the season against Ogwr (Bridgend) hoping to get their season back on track after the poor performance the previous week at Taff Ely.

There were two late withdrawals but John Jones and Paul Gunter were brought in as replacements, allowing Sully to still field a strong team.

Sully were expecting to win as Ogwr are going through a transitional period having won all the recent matches and by the fifth end of the game Sully were already well ahead by 31 shots, 42 – 11.

By the 10th end Sully had gone further ahead by 58 shots with all rinks having the advantage. After 15 ends the overall score was well in favour of Sully with rinks skipped by Brian Foscolo, Martin Clarke-Squires, Brian Griffiths and Ken McLeod well ahead by 28-7, 23-12, 24-6 and 18-8 respectively.

Matthew Woodcock was also holding a good lead, 17-10, but Steve Close's rink, who had always been in front, were now one shot down at 10-11.

With six ends to play Sully had an unassailable lead, 120-54, and as the game progressed it was a case of Sully securing full points, with five of the six rinks winning comfortably.

It was left to Close's rink to pull back their deficit but unfortunately the opposition were determined to take at least two points, eventually winning the rink 11-19.

Sully won overall by 58 shots, 145-87, securing 20 points; their next game is away to Newport on Saturday, October 31.

FP

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PENARTH UNDER-13 HOCKEY TEAM MAKES A WINNING START!

Penarth hockey boys.

PENARTH under-13 boys' hockey team played in their first tournament last weekend at Whitchurch. Many of the boys have only started playing since September when training moved to Stanwell school.

The team made a winning start, beating Llan and Caer 3-0. Lewis Ingram and Elys Johnson were outstanding in attack, with Gabriel Pryde stopping any opposition attacks.

The second match against Abergavenny proved to be a sterner test. Abergavenny were aggressive and direct in attack with a very strong striker, they went 3-0 up but Elis Knight did manage to get a goal back. However, there was not enough time for Penarth to get back on level terms.

Despite the scoreline, Penarth played some really good hockey. Ross John and Aron McJennett-House were strong in defence but the goals came from break away attacks.

The final two games were against Whitchurch.

The Penarth boys beat their B team 2-1 with some excellent goals. They went 1-0 down but then Iwan Meddins made an excellent cross from the left which Max Poddar expertly put away to make it 1-1.

Iwan then went on to score an outstanding shot from the edge of the circle. Jack Ritchie provided some great defensive cover alongside Gabriel and Aron. Elis made some important saves in goal.

In the final game, Penarth took some time to break the deadlock despite lots of pressure from Ross, Elys, Lewis and Iwan.

After half time, Lewis made a magnificent strike from the edge of the circle to beat the Whitchurch 'keeper, who had made several outstanding saves in the first half. Elys then managed to slot home.

Finally, the Penarth boys combined to score an outstanding team goal, Iwan, Max and then Lewis made some slick passes to score their third.

Meanwhile Jack had a super game in goal and Gabriel was tireless in defence.

Well done to all the Penarth boys, every member of the team contributed to a great morning of hockey.

Any boys interested in joining Penarth Hockey Club should come along to Stanwell School on Wednesdays 6.15pm-7.15pm.

MICHELLE MEDDINS

Juniors are back in action

Archie Gray????

JUNIOR tennis at Dinas Powys tennis Club is now back on after a break over the summer.

It is still Saturday mornings but is now 10am-11am. It has been very popular with youngsters, particularly with the pleasant September weather. Let's hope this continues over the colder winter months.

Archie Gray has continued to add to his tournament success over the summer with more recent wins in Swansea, Gloucester and Bolton.

He has a busy October where he is due to play at Cardiff University, Reading, Taunton, Gloucester and either Swansea or Southampton. We wish him every success in those events.

Juniors played a significant role in the recent Dilwyn Thomas competition, Amelia Davidson was runner-up with Dad, Paul in the B final, Libby Smith was runner-up in the A final with Alex Vowles, and Luke Davidson was victorious in the A final with Safiyyah Azeez.

Izaac Follon and Sophie Thomas also proved to be tough opponents in the qualifying group stage.

Finally, Amelia went on to be awarded the Sue Thomas plate for excellence over the year.

Forthcoming events include tennis camps over the half term holidays and our annual Halloween party on Saturday, October 31.

MM

Barry and District ladies skittle league

LATEST results for Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing October 5 are as follows:

First division: *SV Gals (L Kingman 30) 299, Bakers Dozen (E Lewis 35) 308; Special Angels (R Niblett, L Doutford, L Pearce 26) 268, Coppers (J Williams, J Ward, J Hartnell 25) 258; Allsorts (L Thomas 29) 260, Space Finders (N Morris 26) 260; Bobby's Girls (S Snelson 26) 255, Cigar Ladies (L Webb 23) 224; Colcot Ladies 216, Castle Bandits 251; Breakaways (V Martin 36) 295, Family and Friends (J Phillips 31) 319; Barry Stars (M Richards 34) 323, Family Affair (S Evans 32) 342.*

Second division*: Pila Palas (H Palfrey 24) 222, Little Devils (T Jones 25) 216; Cad Con Fillies (V Heard 26) 219, Vixens (J Pendrick 25) 221; Merry Makers (R Collins 29) 225, Castaways (K Billings 25) 243; Rhoose Ravers (J Lott 25) 249, Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan, H Pullin 22) 224; Witchill Widows (C Gregory, G McCarthy 30) 318, After Eights (A Jackson 29) 296; S V Lights (N Alsop 31) 260, Red Admiral (S Clements 30) 258; Witchill Weebies (R Royle 33) 312, Clickies (M thomas 34) 308.*

Third division: *Rugby Triers (Sue Cogbill, L Wright, V Cawley 23) 233, La Bells (L Hughes 245) 221; Hill Billies (A Avaient 32) 313, Westenders (J Jeynes 33) 324; S V Ladies (F Butler 31) 302, Persuaders (K Scott 32) 268; Etcetera (P Tumilty, M Grasby, P Riddick 29) 297, Fallen Angels (C Stephens 28) 264; Airways Angels (A Sales 26) 217, Friends and Neighbours (B Nicholls 26) 210; Divas (C Miller 28) 256, Roller Coasters (G Giles 26) 238; Twilights (C Brown 25) 202, Dolly Mixtures (J Preece 22) 200.*

Fourth division: *Off the Rails (S Crump 24) 223, Guardian Angels (R Chaplin 24) 224; Uptown Girls (J Marsh 30) 246, Challengers (J Jones 30) 233); Rebels (A Wilson 27) 204, Witchill Wanderers (C Reynolds 25) 196; Living on a Spare (A Finn 34) 297, Nite Outers (B Lowrie 38) 287,*

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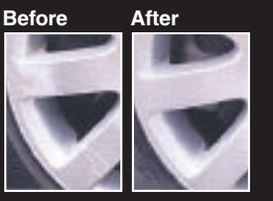

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Road racers who would run into trouble!

SO familiar is the sight of joggers pounding the streets these days that they barely get a second glance. However, it hasn't always been like that; just take a look at this article I wrote for the long-gone weekly paper,* Reveille*, dated October 23-29, 1971:

Life for long distance runners can be hazardous. I know because I used to be one. It was not the 10-mile daily stint that worried me. Like 30-miles-a-day man Dave Bedford, I enjoyed training.

To some people the sight of a runner plodding the streets has the same effect as showing a red flag to a bull.

Not content at shouting: 'Come on, Chataway', 'Here comes Gordon Pirie' or 'Why don't you catch a bus?', they will also shout swear words.

On one occasion, I was stoned by a gang of youths while taking part in a marathon race, while a team mate of mine was beaten up by a hooligan during a run.

Then there are the motorists who take great delight in sounding their horns as they speed past you. Some are even mad enough to force you off the road. During one road race, a motorist slid down his window and spat at me.

I do not know why some people react this way. I can only put it down to some form of jealousy. The biggest hazard to the road runner are dogs who have been let off their lead. Big or small, it makes little difference. While training in a park, I was once pinned down by an Alsation: "He won't hurt you," said the owner – very comforting!

Of course, I could have jumped in the park's lake and swam to the other side, but after running about eight or nine miles, I did not feel quite up to it.

All that talk about the loneliness of the long distance runner is a myth. The trials and tribulations of the long distance runner is more like it!

These days, runners taking part in road races know that they will be well organised and that they will have run the correct distance. But it hasn't always been like that. Back in 1960, when I was a Roath (Cardiff) Harrier, I won the Monmouthshire 20-mile road race championship, beating Welsh international Ken Flowers by around half-a-mile. I clocked two hours, two minutes and 26 seconds. However, on remeasuring the course, it was found to be two miles too long!

The previous year, when I finished just 17 seconds behind the 1958 British Commonwealth Games marathon runner and Welsh champion Ron Franklyn, the course proved to be nearly two miles short!

In the 1980s, the Western Mail decided to put on a Cardiff marathon, I decided to make a 'comeback' and joined the Les Croupiers Road Running Club.

Not only was I a winning member of the team which won the Bristol Marathon three years on the bounce, I also won the over-45 veterans 1982 Dow Corning Barry Half-Marathon, clocking exactly one hour and 20 minutes.

Other veteran prizes that went my way included the Bridgend 10-mile road race, the Llanrumney half-marathon and the South Glamorgan Cross Country Championship.

When I see the number of marathons, half-marathons and other races that runners have to choose from today, I feel a little bit of envy. When I started running back in the late 1950s, the only long distance race for runners like myself was the annual Welsh AAA Marathon Championship, which took place from Cardiff's Maindy Stadium and attracted around 10 runners at the most. These days, runners have thousands of competitors to run against, which can only be a good thing.

When I ran my first marathon from Maindy Stadium, tradition had it that Newport Harrier Tommy Wood led the runners out of the stadium gates. But silly me beat him to it, just so that my mother could hear my name mentioned on the radio! It was a case of first out of the stadium and last man in, with me clocking over three hours!

I was told that Welshman Tom Richards, the 1948 Olympic Games Marathon silver medalist, would be running in the Welsh Marathon. I expected to see a smartly-attired athlete, so imagine my surprise when Tom, who turned up late (he had to have a taxi from the General Railway Station and they held the race up for him) appeared wearing a rust-stained vest and wearing ordinary daps or plimsolls on his feet!

I managed to run with Tom for about three miles at the most until he drew right away from me. The next time I saw him was outside Tredegar House sitting on a grass verge, having his feet attended to by a first aid man. Just days before, he had won the Isle of Man 37 miles road race and his feet were still covered in blisters.

One embarrassing Maindy Stadium moment was the time I had just returned from a 10-mile training run when the club's star half-miler, who had wanted to run a 660 yard time trial, was still waiting for the athlete who was going to act as his pacemaker to turn up. I volunteered to take his place, but the star half-miler, who shall remain nameless, was not impressed when I not only paced him, but beat him too, clocking just inside 90 seconds!

Another was the time I ran in a mile race and I was in last place when one of the runners in front of me fell down; 'At least I won't be last now,' I thought, but to my surprise, he got back up, seemed to take a while thinking whether he should carry on, did so and still managed to beat me!

Sadly, at 79, my running days are over, but at least I have my memories of those happy days.

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

The GEM's Brian Lee with the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, W J Hartland in 1964, when he had the honour of running from Cardiff to Mountain Ash with a New Year message which opened the famous Nos Galan road race proceedings.

Wolves reach semi-finals

DINAS Wolves set about their game with Sully Reds in a style that is not normally associated with them, coming out the blocks at 100mph.

Notoriously slow starters, the young Wolves were two goals the better in the opening 15 minutes thanks to some unselfish work from Booker and Harewood, Hewitson and Saunders being the scorers.

The Dinas goal was rarely threatened as Tylor Williams, Lewis, Frost and Mallum gave Morris plenty of protection and dealt with the Sully forwards very well.

Skipper Fifield, Harewood and Doughty were winning plenty of balls in the middle, wide players Booker and Hewitson linked up very well with their fullbacks Frost and Mallum and looked to create overlaps, while Saunders knew his job and never allowed the Sully back four time to play.

The second half was more of the same and with the introduction of Perria and O'Brien wide, and Quest and Mossey at full back, the villagers never lost their shape. Booker added a third as his pace and strength proved too much.

Sully pulled a goal back with minutes remaining but Dinas should have put the game to bed a lot sooner as plenty of players were guilty of missing chances.

Man of the match was a hard call between the always-running Harewood and hard-tackling Doughty, but the players decided it deserved to go to T Williams, who put in a faultless display at centre-half.

LS

Wins for Tim and Evan

VALE trainers Tim Vaughan and Evan Williams both saddled winners at the recent Ludlow National Hunt meeting, *writes BRIAN LEE*.

Tim's *Uncle Tone*, ridden by M G Nolan, won the two miles, five furlongs hurdle, finishing 12 lengths ahead of the favourite *Samtu* and Evan's *Still Believing*, partnered by Adam Wedge, took the two miles, seven furlongs and 174 yards handicap hurdle by four-and-a-half lengths from the co-favourite *Jean Fleming*. *Uncle Tone* was a 3-1 chance and *Still Believing* went off at odds of 8-1.

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QUALIFYING HOODOO IS OVER...

Now the really hard work starts for Chris Coleman and Wales!

by GARETH JAMIESON

IT'S been something of a rollercoaster watching the Welsh football team in recent years.

In my memory, we've been a penalty kick away from qualifying for the World Cup of 1994, had the ignominy of the Bobby Gould reign, seen a nation rebuild under Mark Hughes and be a whisker away from making the finals of the 2004 European Championships, had John Toshack putting his faith in the 'kids' and being cruelly exposed.

Gary Speed then took those youngsters and instilled in them belief and confidence before his heartbreaking death, and Chris Coleman, a man who was close to reaching the same vilified lows as Toshack, took his time to bed in before giving the nation real hope of achieving success.

That the cherry on top of the cake came in a disappointing 2-0 reverse in Bosnia mattered little in the heat of the moment; while it was sad to see Wales slip to their first loss of the qualifying campaign, results elsewhere confirmed what we had all believed since we drew 0-0 with Israel last month - that Wales had qualified for the 2016 European Championships.

While the subsequent 2-0 win over Andorra wasn't enough to lift them back to the summit of their group, it did however lead to rampant celebrations from a sold-out 33,000 crowd at the Cardiff City Stadium as the carnival-like atmosphere overshadowed what was, in truth, a particularly cumbersome game of football, enlivened only by goals from Aaron Ramsey and - of course - Gareth Bale.

Post-match, as the players celebrated on the pitch having become the first squad since the World Cup squad of 1958 to reach a major tournament, thoughts would no doubt have turned to the next chapter of Welsh football - after all, the belief that Coleman and his squad can go on and achieve more is palpable, particularly when it comes to Europe's showpiece tournament in France next summer.

Even the news that Wales will be in the bottom pot of teams when the draw is made in December did little to dampen spirits - not because we're simply happy to be there, but because we have shown that we are capable, on our day, of matching any team and the opportunity to test themselves on this stage is one that the team will be relishing.

In the short term, there are friendly games to be played in both November and next March, with the likes of Poland, Portugal, Holland and even Argentina mooted as possible opponents, top-level opposition designed to give Wales the toughest test before they start their Euro test.

In the long-term, there is the more than achievable goal of emulating that squad of 1958 and reaching the 2018 World Cup finals. In a group that will see us face off with the Republic of Ireland, Serbia, Georgia and Moldova, Wales may well be top seeds, but know that a tricky set of fixtures lies in store in their bid to make it to Russia.

Tricky but not impossible, especially if the foundations that have served the team so well in this campaign remain in place. Coleman's contract may well be up after the Euros but it's a certainty he will be aiming to guide the team to the World Cup, while on the pitch strong defence, led by the imperious and resolute Ashley Williams, has set up an attack led by the world-class skill and guile of Gareth Bale, but anchored by the indomitable work ethic of Hal Robson-Kanu, to name but three players in a squad who have all played out of their skins.

The one thing that the team will have to battle against is expectation - while their success hasn't been a total shock, the rest of the footballing world will have sat up and taken notice and they will no longer be a surprise package. As both Israel and Andorra showed, teams will be happy to sit deep and not allow the impact players of Ramsey and Bale to get the space to create opportunities, making it more difficult for teams to be broken down.

Wales showed in these games theie ability to create openings, but not always the ability to take the chances when they came their way, and more cutting-edge in front of goal will be imperative to help the team kick on.

While the qualification dream has been achieved, and, seemingly, most of Wales has designs on sampling all the hospitality France can muster come next summer, the bigger picture must not be forgotten.

This isn't the culmination of years of hard work, begun by John Toshack as he threw his young charges in at the deep end, but the start of a grander adventure, one that can see this hardy squad of players, led by Chris Coleman, achieve whatever they set their minds to.

This group has captured the hearts and attention of a nation - let's hope this is just the beginning of the good times for this, Wales' 'golden generation'

The Barry Comprehensive School team are ready to take on the best the world has to offer!

Barry school in Youth World Cup

AT the end of the summer term, the Barry Comprehensive School under-13 football team travelled to Gothenburg, Sweden to compete in the Youth World Cup.

The tournament, which attracted teams from over 80 countries, is considered the premier youth tournament in the world and provided a superb week for our football mad team as they looked to challenge the world's best players.

A 15-strong squad arrived on Saturday prior to the start of the tournament and played a friendly match against a local team before witnessing an unbelievable opening ceremony attended by 40,000 people.

The group stage of the tournament saw three games against Swedish opposition and a gritty encounter with Georgian opponents. Games were of a high quality and parents were even able to watch the games through live streaming over the internet.

It was a steep learning curve for the boys, but they adapted quickly to achieve a respectable third place finish in the group and advanced into to the round of 128 in the knock out stage.

The boys then went on a superb run, beating two more Swedish teams before bowing out in the round of 16 against representatives from the host nation.

It was a Herculean effort by the boys to advance so far into the competition, sometimes playing two games a day and coping admirably with frequently travelling to and from games.

In the end, the team simply had no more to give and the competition physios had their hands full patching the boys up!

Throughout the week the boys had opportunities to visit the Heden centre which played host to the elite competition and even got to have photographs with Newcastle United players and coaching staff.

The boys returned home after eight days away to a heroes welcome from their families, safe in the knowledge that this would be an experience they will never forget.

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Cowbridge RFC Firsts' sensational performance as they win in Bowl

LAST Saturday, Cowbridge travelled to Division 3A side Wattstown in the SSE SWALEC Bowl, where the larger home forwards took control of the game early on.

A Ben Wright penalty did give the visitors a 3-0 lead after five minutes and the home side then missed their first chance, before levelling the scores after 12 minutes.

Repeated infringements saw a yellow card for Wattstown as Cowbridge continued to press the try line. A loose clearance kick was gathered by replacement, and debutant, Jac Richardson, who had come on for veteran Alex Lewis.

Jac set off on a run before feeding Rhys Reed in support, who offloaded sweetly to Richie Howson to see him race over for a try, converted by Wright for a deserved 10-3 half-time lead.

Wattstown responded well after the break and applied continued pressure to the Cowbridge line, who had lost scrum half Richie Howson, feeling the effects of a heavy late challenge.

Luke James came on with Huw Lougher taking over at 9 and Wattstown continued to push, but squandered a couple of penalty chances.

However, after 47 minutes, pressure on the Cowbridge scrum saw them concede a penalty try, with hooker Conor Boys being sent to the bin.

Wattstown continued to dominate, with Ben Wright thwarting a couple of breaks, but a further scrum infringement led to a second penalty try and a yellow card for skipper Lougher.

With Cowbridge down to 13 men, and losing Geraint Thomas to injury, Wattstown extended their lead to 20-10 with another penalty on 62 minutes.

What happened next was an extraordinary passage of play. On 65 minutes, Wattstown's left wing raced away from a scrum on the halfway line and was brilliantly tackled into touch five metres short by Wright.

A quick lineout got the ball to Duncan Evans, who raced away to the 10-metre line before feeding Will William. Will took it on, before feeding back inside to Evans to finish off a fantastic try, converted by Wright.

From quick ball, Will Williams broke through a tiring defence into the opposition half, before feeding Alex Guard, who ran it in under the posts, Wright's conversion giving Cowbridge a 24-20 lead with eight minutes remaining.

More home team indiscipline and another long lecture from the referee, who for some reason chose not to show a card, gave Wright a chance to convert a 40-metre penalty goal and extend the lead with five minutes to go.

Further indiscipline by the home pack led to a long overdue second yellow card and Cowbridge saw out the game for the win.

An excellent performance that underlined the character that is starting to build within this team, who fought hard for each other all afternoon and came out as deserved winners. Well done boys.

This Saturday the firsts travel to Abercwmboi followed by Canton at home on November 7; the youth BA team are at home against Tondu in a Cup game.

GT/RV/RK

The Reds beat Holton in Cup

COWBRIDGE Town under-12 Reds hosted Holton Road for the second time this season, on this occasion in the second round of the cup.

The Reds had won the first encounter, but would Holton Road be able to turn the tables and get the win required to progress in this tournament?

Holton Road kicked off but soon lost possession allowing the Reds to attack and an early strike from the edge of the box by Will Harries was fumbled by the keeper, allowing Finlay Ball to score the opening goal after good follow up work.

Much of the remainder of the first half was a stalemate, with the home team's shots off-target or saved by the keeper. Holton Road's attacks were comfortably dealt with by the Reds defence.

Eventually the Reds' second goal came following a well-worked move which was finished off crisply by Ifor Rees to make the score 2-0 at half-time.

The second half brought a number of changes in the Reds line-up and, following two quality in-swinging corners from Akka Guwy, which were well defended by Holton Road, they had no answer to a third which pressurised a Holton Road defender to turn the ball into his own net to make it 3-0.

The Reds then stepped up a gear with substitute Craig Tapsfield opening his account, finishing well from a quick throw-in by Harry Treharne.

Craig then scored three more in quick succession with the final goal showing his speed, outpacing the defence before finishing coolly.

This burst clearly rattled the increasingly vocal Holton Road team, coaches and supporters.

Midway through the half, the Reds were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the Holton Road box following a poor challenge.

This was dispatched into the top corner by a clean strike from Akka to make the score 8-0. Soon after, Harry scored the ninth by following up a shot to score on the rebound and the final goal came from the returning Sam Davies just before the final whistle with the game ending 10-0 to the Reds.

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Collingridge, Sam Davies, Steffan Evans, Akka Guwy, Rhys Hardman, Will Harries, Aaron Holcombe, Aron Kempson, Toby Mallett, Benji Mulcahy, Ifor Rees, Jac Roberts, Craig Tapsfield, Edward Thomas, Harry Treharne.

SE

SCHOOLS' CROSS-COUNTRY SEASON OFF AND RUNNING!

The cross country team.

THE first two cross country school league fixtures of the season were held at Bryn Hafren and Trelair. The first six girls home in each age group count towards the team score in each race.

Comprehensive year-7 girls did extremely well on their first fixture, finishing second. Year-8 and 9 girls finished fourth and the senior girls first. In the second fixture, year-7 improved their rankings, beating Radyr into second place, while year-8 and 9 girls remained fourth overall and the senior girls held on to first place.

Special mention for outstanding performances in their respective races go to Evie Wong, Rachel and Hannah Gardener, Alice Coe, Sophie Hawkins, Jessica Wadey and Mali Howells.

Cross country success has always been a strong tradition in Cowbridge and the girls this year have made an excellent start in keeping the standard of performance high.

Netball

COWBRIDGE'S year-9 and 10 netball teams took on St Richard Gwyn and Llantwit in a triangular on October 6.

The year-9 team played Llantwit first and scored within the opening seconds of the game, and it didn't stop there. Excellent play and passing from Jess as centre to Beth Edwards as GA put the team in prime attacking position.

Two quick passes later and Eve had the ball ready to shoot.

Eve and Beth's shooting was outstanding and they took every chance they had. On every Cowbridge centre, the girl's quick and accurate passes didn't give Llantwit time to react and get back to defend. Cowbridge's lead extended to 10-0 before half time.

The second half started and Cowbridge were unstoppable. Every chance Llantwit had to attack Daisy, Frankie and Helena intercepted and fed the attack, the ball to extend their lead again. An excellent game ended 22-0!

The year-9 team played St Richard Gwyn next and they were ready to repeat the same standard of play. The whistle went and again, three movements later and we were already 1-0 up.

Cowbridge's passing was spectacular. The girls have clearly gelled as a team as each player knows where the other would run. The gameswas similar, with Eve and Beth successfully shooting every ball. Final score 15-0 win!

Team: Frankie Coates, Helena McCormack, Daisy Connelly, Beth Edwards, Jess Gregory, Eve Mordecai, Ella Jones.

Year-10

YEAR-10 played St Richard Gwyn first. Cowbridge had the first centre pass and started strong. Excellent movement and passing down the court by Jordan, Sophie and Merial put us ahead from the start.

The attack was very fast and the passes were quick and sharp, this helped extend our lead.

St Richard Gwyn were playing well and were making it difficult for us to get the circle. A good GD prevented many attempts at goal for us.

However, our defence was just as strong and we kept St Richard Gwyn out of the attacking circle.

Excellent defensive work by Elin, Tirion and Sarah meant that they didn't have many opportunities. Cowbridge had many interceptions and only allowed St Richard to score one goal. Final score 8-1.

Cowbridge's next game was against Llantwit. This game was again very similar. Both defensive and attacking play was very good. We missed many opportunities at goal, but we still won 8-2. Two very good games and wins for Cowbridge.

Team: Olivia Mitchell, Sophie Rees, Meriel Clode, Jordan Meek, Tirion Evans, Elin Swallow, Sarah Jones and Molly Ward-Tossell.

(Netball reports by team members)

Year-10 netball team.

Year-9 netball team

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday October 13, the Farmers Arms hosted the semi-final and final of the fours.

The final was won by the Edmondes B (Martin Thomas, David Thomas, David Cheal, Paul Butcher, Martin Gaffney, Jonathan Cheal) team who defeated the Edmondes 'C' (Mark Dowling, Steve Huish, Noyle Burt, Richie Williams, Marc Lassimer) team 3-0 in the final.

Present league standings, after three matches, are: Highwayman Inn (18 points), Farmers Arms and Edmondes A (16), Edmondes B (15), Six Bells Inn (14), Edmondes C (13), Llanharry (6), Hare & Hounds and Old Post Ladies (5).

Next week, Tuesday, October 27, there is another full programme of league matches. The Edmondes B hosts the Six Bells Inn, Llanharry hosts the Farmers Arms, the Hare & Hounds hosts the Edmondes C and the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondes A; The Old Post Ladies do not have a game.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

The GEM SALUTES WELSH HEROES ALL!

Over and out... a dream ends, but didn't they do Wales proud?

LEFT: a sad sight that was the story of Wales' World Cup campaign.

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

LEFT: Sam's the man...The disappointment is clear as skipper Warburton leads his gallant band off the field at Twickenham for the last time in Rugby World Cup 2015.
RIGHT: Kiwi convert to Welsh colours, Gareth Anscombe, shows the sense of purpose that has marked the injury-hit Welsh team's display throughout the tournament.

Pictures courtesy of Huw Evans Agency

AS Wales' brave 2015 Rugby World Cup campaign finally came to an end, with a heart-rending quarter final defeat to South Africa on Saturday, head coach Warren Gatland summed up his team's battling display in typically honest fashion:

"The players put their bodies on the line and gave it everything - but, unfortunately, we weren't good enough to hold on for 80 minutes".

Admitting the Welsh camp was "absolutely gutted" by the 19-23 result at Twickenham, after leading by one point with just five minutes to go to the final whistle, Gatland rightly expressed pride in the injury-ravaged squad which had performed a minor miracle in even surviving the 'pool of death' that had claimed hosts England, and had come within a whisker of again making a World Cup semi-final, following on the drama of four years ago in New Zealand.

With so many first choice players missing from the line-up, felled by a seemingly never-ending injury toll that stretched back even before the tournament kicked off, Lady Luck seemed to have deserted the Welsh cause, which was already weighed under by history.

The scale of the physical challenge facing the much-depleted team was that the Springboks had won 27 of the 30 clashes between the two nations since 1906, with one match drawn, and had amassed 814 points to 440 against.

It had taken Wales until Rugby World Cup year 1999 to record their first victory (29-19) at the half-completed Millennium Stadium; the only previous success was a hard-earned 6-6 draw at the old National Stadium in 1970.

However, memories were still fresh of losing by a single point after rocking South Africa in their pool match at the 2011 World Cup in Wellington, New Zealand; and the team were also buoyed by their most recent meeting – a 12-6 win in the autumn 'friendly' in Cardiff.

Certainly, to their credit, and despite all the injury misfortunes that have plagued the current campaign, which has seen relative newcomers drafted in to fill gaps in the ranks, and others having to perform out of position – as Gatland was forced to shuffle and reshuffle his cards – the squad has shown its courage and character under fire.

Through it all, morale and confidence remained high and it showed again from the outset on Saturday, with Wales immediately on the charge through George North, but falling behind to four penalties by outside half Handre Pollard in a first quarter that would prove decisive; even though Wales hit back with a well-struck penalty kick by opposite number Dan Biggar – who also won a trademark aerial challenge, offloaded to scrum half Gareth Davies, and promptly converted the resulting try in front of the posts.

Welsh errors in execution, both forced and unforced, were costing them dear – not helped by some mystifying decisions, particularly at the breakdown – by whistle-happy referee Wayne Barnes, but just before halftime, after unusually missing with a third penalty attempt that bounced off an upright, Biggar made amends with a smartly-taken drop goal for a one-point 13-12 lead at the interval.

Play resumed with Wales again competing strongly, but still prone to error, conceding a penalty which fortunately was off target.

Biggar then increased the lead to four points (16-12) when it was the South Africans' turn to offend Mr Barnes – only for Pollard to narrow it again to one point (16-15) with a drop goal, before misdirecting another penalty attempt.

This was the signal for the Welsh defence to come under a lengthy period of sustained pressure and in a see-saw encounter it culminated in Pollard's boot regaining the initiative (18-16), only for Biggar to step up when it was the Springbok eight's turn to be penalised at the breakdown and he wrested back a fragile one-point lead.

Five minutes from time, with the score 19-18 and despite having missed several promising opportunities, Wales could see a famous victory (and another semi-final spot) in sight. But as against Australia the previous week, and on so many occasions against southern hemisphere sides, Wales were cruelly thwarted even as anxious eyes were turning towards the clock.

Despite dominating territory and possession, South Africa, who had not looked remotely like scoring a try, suddenly changed their blitzkrieg, bullyboy approach to a canny blindside ploy with a training ground try in the corner by scrum half and captain Fourie du Preez.

It snatched a 23-19 victory – to the despair of the Wales camp and their large army of red-clad supporters – as the World Cup dream suddenly evaporated for another four years.

However, unlike France who were humiliated (62-13) by awesome Kiwis and Ireland pulverised (43-20) by the Pumas, the Welsh players exited the field with their heads held high, to resounding applause from friends, foes, and neutrals alike in the packed stands.

Truly it can be said that this still young team has done Wales proud in the face of unprecedented adversity, and there is much to build on as they return to their day jobs.

Nevertheless, with unlucky Scotland's controversial one-point defeat (34-35) to Australia, it is a sobering fact that there will be no northern hemisphere representation in the closing stages of Rugby World Cup 2015.

It's proof enough that the gap between it and the southern hemisphere, particularly when it comes to that crucial last 5-10 minutes, has not been closed just yet.

Wales have qualified for Euro 2016 – but the hard work has only just begun! Read GARETH JAMIESON's thoughts on page 41.